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Pakistan

Government Dissolved—In remarks carried by Islamabad radio 29 May, President Ziaul Haq announced to a Rawalpindi press conference that, exercising the authority granted him by the Constitution, he had decided to dissolve the National Assembly "with immediate effect," explaining that this step also resulted in the dissolution of the cabinet. The president declared that elections will be held within 90 days, and he noted the postponement of his trip to the PRC "under the current circumstances."

In explaining his decision, Ziaul Haq asserted that the National Assembly had not fulfilled its mandate to guarantee law and order. The "honor and security" of Pakistan's citizens has been rendered "totally unsafe" and the country's "integrity and morality" have been "seriously endangered," he said. In a 30-minute speech to the nation carried by the radio the next day, the president announced that the provincial assemblies had also been dissolved in accordance with the Constitution. The president reassured the nation that there was no cause for alarm or worry. "Life continues normally," he said, and he confirmed that no bans on political parties, political activities, or the press have been instituted.

Elaborating on his accusations regarding the National Assembly's ineffectualness, Ziaul Haq cited the failure of the "people's representatives" to eschew "bribery and corruption," as well as their negligence in taking steps to develop the economy and to cope successfully with civil strife. Their "greatest crime" was to shelve the "Islamization process," he charged. The Pakistani president pledged that he will give special attention to creating an "Islamic system," providing "inexpensive and accessible justice," improving law and order, and turning the country back from "near bankruptcy."

Following the president's initial announcement, troops were deployed to guard key installations around the country, including the office and residence of Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo, KYODO reported. While opposition leader Benazir Bhutto initially welcomed the president's move, provided that free and fair elections are held, she later noted that no date had been set, and she took issue with the Pakistani president's attempt to make a "scapegoat" of Junejo, AFP reported.

Soviet Complaint—A Soviet Foreign Ministry statement carried by TASS 28 May charged that Pakistan has "grossly violated" the Geneva accord stipulations against interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan. Asserting that Pakistan's "flat violations" ranged from facilitating weapons transfer and rebel military training to "insulting attacks" on the Afghan Government and its officials, the statement warned that if Pakistan does not take "appropriate measures" to ends its "illicit actions," the USSR will react "in a manner as warranted by the situation."

Afghanistan

Meli Shura—The Afghan Government is prepared to deliver a "crushing blow" to the resistance; nevertheless, "the door to negotiation and compromise remains open," President Najibullah declared at a speech to the 29 May opening of the Meli Shura broadcast by Kabul radio. Afghan society should be "heterogeneous, coalitionist, multibased, and multinational," he said, adding that his government is "ready to receive" Zahir Shah, the former king. He urged the assembly to become a "peace parliament," and he called on the representatives to formulate legislation facilitating the implementation of the cease-fire and the return of the refugees.

Mujahidin Action—Soviet and Afghan troops have abandoned their positions in Parvan Province's Panjsher Valley, and the area is "totally under mujahidin control," according to a spokesman for the Islamic Society of Afghanistan cited by AFP 30 May. He added that resistance forces also captured an Afghan Army post at Ahangaran along the Salang Highway to the Soviet Union. In Kabul, four people were killed and five wounded by rebel shells that fell on residential areas, Kabul radio reported 27 May.

French Journalist Released—President Najibullah announced the pardon of French journalist Alain Guillo, who had been sentenced to 10 years imprisonment for espionage, according to a letter addressed to French President Francois Mitterrand and broadcast by Kabul radio 27 May. In remarks carried by Paris radio 29 May after he arrived home, Guillo charged that President Najibullah had personally executed prisoners "to work off his own frustration over a military failure."

Lebanon

A car bomb exploded in the Al-Rumayl area of East Beirut 30 May, killing 15 people and wounding 59, Voice of Lebanon radio reported. Beirut radio noted that the explosion occurred near the Phalangist Party center in Al-Ashrafiyah.

In remarks carried by the Voice of Lebanon, Lebanese Forces (LF) deputy commander Karim Paqraduni linked the "bloody message" of the bombing with the "verbal message" received the previous day—a reference to a news conference by Syrian Information Minister Muhammad Salman. Responding to Salman's warning that there will be no presidential elections without the creation of an "administrative Beirut," Paqraduni accused Syria of laying down "impossible conditions" in order to obstruct the elections. The LF will only agree to

the establishment of "administrative Beirut" if the Syrians withdraw from all of Beirut and allow the Lebanese Army to control the area under a security plan drawn up by a new government, Paqradduni stated.

In his Damascus news conference, the Syrian minister also focused on the situation in the southern suburb, where Syrian troops continued their deployment over the weekend. According to Damascus radio, Salman said the Syrian forces will withdraw from the suburb after security has been restored, leaving the Lebanese Internal Security Forces the task of maintaining order. However, Salman subsequently modified this statement by explaining that he was not referring to the complete withdrawal of Syrian forces from the suburb, the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon reported. A Syrian force must remain there to guarantee security and stability until the situation no longer warrants its presence, he said.

On the details of Syria's move into the suburb, Damascus radio noted that Syrian troops and Lebanese Internal Security Forces continued to deploy in the "remaining quarters" of the suburb 28 May, allowing civilians to resume normal life. The force comprises around 1,000 Syrian soldiers and 400 Internal Security Forces, Beirut radio disclosed, adding that the deployment transforms West Beirut and the southern suburb into a single security area. Voice of Lebanon radio, however, noted that the Syrians have thus far avoided entering the Bi'r al-'Abd area, where Hizballah has its most important barracks.

There is no agreement to remove weapons from the suburb, the radio said, and "sources" have revealed that there is a Syrian-Iranian agreement not to carry out military operations to release the foreign hostages. Nevertheless, Syrian Defense Minister Musatafa Talas told Austrian journalists in Damascus that Syrian troops will free the hostages "by force if necessary" if they locate them in the suburb, according to Vienna ORF Teletext.

For Iran's part, IRNA reported that the Iranian Embassy in Beirut "expressed pleasure" with the Syrian deployment, and the agency cited a Hizballah official who praised Iran and Syria for their efforts to stop the fighting in the southern suburb. Tehran radio later criticized "people affiliated with Nabih Birri" for preventing Hizballah activity in southern Lebanon, a move which "has been interpreted by informed circles as a violation of the south Beirut agreement."

PLO

PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat met with Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and other senior Libyan officials in Tripoli 30 May, Algiers Voice of Palestine radio reported. The talks focused on ways to support the uprising in the occupied territories and to ensure the success of the upcoming Arab summit.

'Arafat earlier called on Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad to intervene personally to stop the shelling of Palestinian camps in southern Beirut from "Syrian positions," according to Radio Monte Carlo. Syrian Information Minister Salman responded by denying any Syrian involvement in the fighting between rival Palestinian factions in Beirut, the radio noted. "Whenever he gets annoyed, 'Arafat has nothing to say other than to level charges against Syria," the minister contended. However, a PLO spokesman cited by the radio subsequently explained that 'Arafat was not accusing the Syrian Army of shelling the camps; rather, he was stating that the shelling was carried out by gunmen "proceeding from positions controlled by the Syrian Army."

'Arafat's remarks on the subject followed Voice of Lebanon radio reports of renewed fighting between 'Arafat's supporters and opponents in the Burj al-Barajinah camp 27 May. Two people were killed and seven injured in the camp when it was shelled by Fatah "dissidents" from positions in the mountains overlooking Beirut, the radio said.

Israel

At least 10 local residents were wounded in incidents in the Janin and Nabulus areas 29 May, and Arab sources maintained that an Arab woman was killed by IDF fire, Jerusalem radio reported. The radio also noted that a 3-year-old girl was killed during the dispersal of a demonstration in Gaza 27 May. A baby was blinded in one eye by a rubber bullet fired during the dispersal of a demonstration in a Gaza refugee camp 30 May, the radio disclosed.

Towns in "Judaea and Samaria" observed a full commercial strike 30 May in accordance with instructions from "Call No 18" issued by the uprising leadership, Jerusalem radio noted. The Call, which was broadcast by Baghdad Voice of the PLO radio, laid down a schedule of further strikes the first week of June and outlined a program of "comprehensive civil disobedience." A similar statement on proposed acts of civil disobedience was carried by the clandestine Al-Quds Palestinian Arab radio. Suggested measures include a complete cessation of work in "Zionist projects and facilities," refusal to pay taxes or to have any dealings with the Israeli authorities, and the burning of identity cards.

In another development, Jerusalem radio disclosed that Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has held two recent meetings with Palestinian personalities from the territories. One of the participants, a director of Palestinian hospital services, told the radio that Rabin expressed the view that the Shultz initiative has "missed the train," and that no political movement can be expected until some 6 months after the U.S. and Israeli elections.

Syrian-Jordanian Talks

Syrian President al-Asad received Jordanian Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i in Damascus 30 May, Damascus radio reported. The Amman paper AL-DUSTUR noted that Al-Rifa'i conveyed a message from King Husayn in accordance with the continued consultations and coordination between the two countries. The message has "special importance" as it comes amid an "extremely delicate" Arab political stage, the paper added.

Iran

The third Majlis should work to remove the country's major problems and give priority to implementing "infrastructural" policies aimed at "helping the deprived and eliminating oppression," Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni asserted in a 28 May message broadcast by Tehran radio. The message, which was read out during the inauguration of the new Majlis session by Ahmad Khomeyni, urged the Majlis to meet popular expectations for action to overcome "problems and deprivations," and to alter Iran's "extremely complicated" administrative system. Khomeyni added that he hopes the Majlis will take "giant steps in solving the problems of the deprived and barefoot." He also reaffirmed the need for unity to counteract attempts by "unclean elements" to exploit election rivalries and cast doubts on the integrity and soundness of the elections.

In a speech to the Majlis session carried by Tehran television, President 'Ali Khamene'i likewise referred to the need for legislative action to eradicate poverty, illiteracy, and corruption within the administrative system. The deputies should now put their slogans into practice, he said, and the Majlis "should not consider any existing social reality to be a bitter and unalterable truth."

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Time favors Iraq as the military balance is increasingly tipping in its favor, Iraqi President Saddam Husayn asserted in a speech to officers broadcast by Baghdad radio 28 May. He maintained that Iraq's recent victories show the Iraqi infantryman is "superior" to his Iranian counterpart, noting that the Iranians "are not fighting the way they did" 2 years ago.

In Iran, President Khamene'i acknowledged that Iraq has recently had "one or two victories and successes," but he contended that these things will not determine the final result of the war. Speaking during a Friday sermon broadcast by Tehran radio, Khamene'i warned that foreign radio stations and other media are exaggerating the scale of Iranian losses and are trying to sow doubts and anxiety among the Iranian people. Ayatollah Khomeyni likewise referred to "vicissitudes" at the warfronts during his message to the Majlis, but he urged all Iranians to realize that "victory is ours in any case" because "nothing of importance" has been lost in the war.

In earlier reportage on the situation on the Shalamcheh front, east of Basra, Tehran radio cited an IRGC announcement that Iranian forces inflicted "over 10,000" casualties on the Iraqi forces which attacked in that sector 25 May. In another development, Deputy Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati accused the Soviet Union of having supplied Iraq with "at least 800 missiles," according to the radio.

Libya

Talks With Chad—The secretary for foreign liaison met with Chadian President Hissein Habre in Addis Ababa, JANA reported 28 May, adding that the two sides agreed to solve their problems in a "fraternal and amicable" way. Habre also stated that a high-level Chadian delegation will leave for Libya, and this will be followed by further meetings.

Ozal Visit—Col al-Qadhdhafi received visiting Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal 30 May, Tripoli radio reported. Al-Qadhdhafi told Ozal that Turkey should bear the responsibility of Ottoman Turkey's withdrawal from Libya, which made the latter a "target" of Italian colonialism, adding that all nations which have been colonized have the right to demand reparations. Ozal stated before his departure that his visit will contribute to consolidating Libyan-Turkish relations, especially in the economic field, JANA noted.

Sudan-Ethiopia

Sudanese Prime Minister Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi and Ethiopian President Mengistu Haile Miriam met 27 May to review "recent strides" in the development of bilateral relations, SUNA reported, noting that the meeting occurred on the sidelines of the OAU summit in Addis Ababa.

Palestinian Affairs

PLO's 'Arafat Holds Addis Ababa News Conference

NC2805095588 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0920 GMT 28 May 88

[Excerpts] Addis Ababa, 28 May (MENA)—PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has stated that the PLO is seeking to resolve the Palestinian issue within the framework of international legitimacy. He said the PLO has agreed on holding an international conference for peace in the Middle East under the auspices of the United Nations and with the participation of the permanent member states of the Security Council and all parties concerned. [passage omitted]

In a press conference here last night, 'Arafat said the Palestinian uprising is an important stage in the Palestinian people's struggle and that it is gaining in strength and force daily. [passage omitted]

'Arafat voiced regret at U.S. stands, which do not respect the feelings of 165 million Arabs, particularly regarding the Palestinian uprising. He expressed the belief that it is impossible now to reach an understanding with the United States.

He noted that U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz has acted only because Israel is in a difficult situation. He said that the Americans cause a great stir about a single Soviet dissident but remain silent when hundreds and even thousands of children, women, and old men are killed by Israeli forces in the occupied territories.

'Arafat accused the Israelis of using chemical gases that have caused 680 miscarriages in the occupied territories. This is in addition to killing 352 Palestinians, wounding 10,000, including 3,400 now permanently handicapped, and detaining 20,000, he said.

'Arafat told correspondents that he has received three warnings from the United States—two through two Arab countries and the third through a European country—warning him that he will be held responsible for any action against U.S. interests.

He said the Americans were involved in the assassination of Khalil al-Wazir and the attack on his residence in Tunisia in 1985. He noted that these are not his words but those of Israelis, as reported by Western news agencies and media. He revealed that there are Zionist plans to assassinate Palestinian leaders, warning against these plots.

Referring to the effect of the Palestinian uprising on the international community, 'Arafat said the owners of a factory for manufacturing chemical gases in the United States have stopped dealing with Israel after ascertaining that it has used these gases against the unarmed inhabitants of the occupied territories.

Syrian Shelling Denounced

NC2805064588 Cairo MENA in English 0620 GMT 28 May 88

[Text] Addis Ababa, May 28 (MENA)—PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat said the organisation seeks to settle the Palestinian cause within the framework of international legitimacy. He said the Palestine Liberation Organisation had agreed on holding an international conference on peace in the Mideast under the auspices of the United Nations and attended by U.N. Security Council permanent member states and all parties concerned.

In statements to newsmen here last night, 'Arafat urged the Arab nation to achieve solidarity and unify ranks in confrontation of the Israeli intransigence and said the Palestinian uprising is a major stage in the Palestinian people's struggle and is gaining strenth and force daily.

'Arafat deplored in his statements the Syrian forces' shelling of Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon, especially the camps of Burj al-Barajinah, Sabra and Shatila.

He said it is painful to him and to every Palestinian that such an attack took place after his recent meeting with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and after the assassination of PLO second man Khalil al-Wazir (Abu Jihad).

'Arafat wondered who can move in western Beirut without the knowledge and permission of the Syrian authorities which dominate this part of the city.

'Arafat had received during his meeting with the press yesterday a cable from Beirut informing him that a woman and a child were killed during the attacks on the camps of Burj al-Barajinah, Sabra and Shatila.

PFLP Condemns Shelling of Burj al-Barajinah

NC2805154488 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1445 GMT 28 May 88

[Excerpts] While extreme tension prevails in the Burj al-Barajinah camp and its environs because of the volatile atmosphere between 'Arafat's supporters and opponents, the PFLP issued a statement this afternoon condemning the bombardment of the camp.

The bombardment, the statement said, serves only Israel and will create a big obstacle to the cohesion between the PLO and Syria. The PFLP warned against pursuing this course, which it described as suicidal. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat today held Syria responsible for the shelling of the Burj al-Barajinah camp, wondering whether this is the new chapter in Syrian-Palestinian relations.

Report of 'Arafat Accusation of Syria Denied

JN2905181788 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1710 GMT 29 May 88

[Text] Regarding the recent clashes in the Burj al-Barajinah camp, PLO representative in Baghdad 'Azzam al-Ahmad today said Yasir 'Arafat did not at all accuse the Syrian Army of shelling the camp, but said the shelling was carried out by gunmen in positions controlled by the Syrian Army.

AFP yesterday cited Yasir 'Arafat as saying that the shelling of the Burj al-Barajinah camp regrettably came from Syrian Army positions and that he wondered if that was the new page in Syrian-Palestinian relations.

DFLP's Hawatimah Issues Appeal To USSR

JN2905055288 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500 GMT 29 May 88

[Text] In a message he sent to Soviet leaders yesterday on the occasion of the Moscow summit between Reagan and Gorbachev, DFLP Secretary General Nayif Hawatimah asserted that 5 million Palestinians do not enjoy basic human rights and that 3 million Palestinians are living in the diaspora as a result of the occupation.

Hawatimah called on the Soviet leaders to emphasize the need to convene an effective international peace conference in the Middle East to enable the Palestinian people to exercise their right to self-determination.

Al-Quds Radio Warns Against Meeting Shultz

JN2705150188 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1430 GMT 27 May 88

[Text] Brother strugglers, we have just received the following:

The U.S. Consulate in Jerusalem is conducting secret contacts with certain personalities to convince them to meet with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, who is coming to the region in the near future. The correspondent of Al-Quds, the Palestinian Arab radio on the path of liberating land and man, reported a firm national consensus on rejecting meetings with Shultz.

In the name of the Palestinian Arab people, the Al-Quds radio family warns anyone who is tempted to deviate from the Palestinian consensus.

Al-Quds Radio Urges People To 'Expose' Reagan

JN2805100188 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arab 0755 GMT 28 May 88

[Station appeal to Palestinians in the occupied territories—read by announcer]

[Excerpts] O brother strugglers, our kinfolk in Palestine. [passage omitted] Raise your voice. Make the Moscow summit know that a small vanquished people refuses to live under the yoke of the American-Zionist occupation. Show the world that America, which brags about human rights, is the one which is stifling our Palestinian Arab people's rights.

America, which is blackmailing the Soviet Union over human rights, is, together with its Zionist partner, the one which is confiscating the freedom of our heroic Palestinian Arab people.

O our kinfolk, all of our kinfolk, the world is watching you and awaiting your power. It is expecting you to be a striking force that will assert itself, confront the Zionist enemy, and expose President Reagan, the false claimer of human rights, to the entire world once he is in Moscow.

O our kinfolk, the momentum of the uprising depends on your revolt and anger. The streets are waiting. God is with us, victory is near, and we are together along the path of liberating man and land.

Algeria

Bendjedid Contacts Al-Asad, Al-Qadhdhafi

LD2905211888 Algeria Domestic Service in French 1800 GMT 29 May 88

[Text] President Chadli Bendjedid has had a telephone communication with President Hafiz al-Asad of Syria in the framework of contacts and consultations under way to create an atmosphere for strengthening the Palestinian uprising and consolidating joint Arab action.

The head of state also had a telephone conversation with Colonel al-Qadhdhafi of Libya. First, he congratulated Al-Qadhdhafi on his initiative towards Chad, which has been received positively in Africa. Messrs Bendjedid and al-Qadhdhafi then discussed the consultations under way at the Arab Maghreb level and the efforts deployed in the framework of joint Arab action.

Chad

Habre Comments on Possible Summit With Libya

LD2805170888 Paris International Service in French 1245 GMT 28 May 88

[Excerpts] In Addis Ababa, for the closing session of its anniversary summit, the 25th, the OAU has somehow missed its ending. I will explain: The Mauritanian delegation had left the conference hall following the criticism leveled against Mauritania's links with South Africa. We have not come to be insulted, stressed the Mauritanian minister of foreign affairs. [passage omitted]

The new element at the summit came from elsewhere. I am thinking, of course, of the surprise announcements by Colonel al-Qadhdhafi who was not in Addis Ababa. Here with us on line from Addis Ababa is Jean-Karim Fall, RFI [Radio France International] special correspondent:

[Fall] He was undoubtedly the star of this summit. From Tripoli he caused an event that took everyone here in Addis Ababa by surprise. His reconciliation offer [with Chadian President Habre] has eclipsed the failure of the OAU ad hoc committee which, to remind you, had decided not to issue a verdict on the Chadian-Libyan border dispute.

The OAU noted, without batting an eyelash, the peace offer made by Col al-Qadhdhafi, and took advantage of it to define a new strategy, a strategy of getting the points of view of the two belligerents to converge in order to resolve the border problem.

On the other hand, a resolution was adopted by the heads of state renewing the mandate of the ad hoc committee in its initial composition and asking it to pursue its efforts to keep up the dialogue's momentum. The resolution also expresses satisfaction at the proclaimed determination of both Chad and Libya to seek a political solution to their dispute.

Thus, Col al-Qadhdhafi may deem himself a happy man: no one, at least in public, has doubted his sincerity. It was a diplomatic victory in a hall where he had often been a defendant. [passage omitted]

President Hissein Habre, even though he says he is ready to meet Col al-Qadhdhafi, remains in fact prudent and pessimistic, above all. Forty-eight hours ago, he underlined before his collegues the status quo of the current situation. He estimated that the OAU had in its hands all the elements for taking a decisive step in settling the Chadian-Libyan question.

Therefore, he implicitly criticized the OAU ad hoc committee, which has decided to postpone a definitive settlement of the Chadian-Libyan border dispute. We must show political courage, he concluded before his collegues.

[Announcer] Regarding the ad hoc committee in charge of the Chadian-Libyan dispute, a Chadian-Libyan summit is hoped for, with the participation of Col al-Qadhdhafi and President Hissein Habre. Listen to what the Chadian president thought of this when he was contacted by Jean-Karim Fall this morning:

[Begin Habre recording] I am absolutely unaware of the summit in question. The only thing I can affirm is that, in the context of the efforts which will be made by the current chairman of the OAU, by the chairman of the ad hoc committee, and the ad hoc committee member countries, the possibility is not ruled out—I repeat: not ruled out—of a summit bringing together myself and Al-Qadhdhafi. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Notes Possibility

AB2805211588 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 28 May 88

[Text] The 24th OAU summit has ended in Addis Ababa. President El Hadj Hissein Habre personally attended the closing ceremony, the highlight of which was the press conference given by the head of state in the Ethiopian capital on Al-Qadhdhafi's proposals concerning the resumption of relations between Ndjamena and Tripoli. Moussa Dago, our special correspondent in Addis Ababa, reviews for us the summit and President Hissein Habre's press conference.

[Begin recording] [Dago] This morning, President Hissein Habre attended the solemn closing session of the 24th OAU summit in Addis Ababa. The main event was the press conference given by the head of state, prompted by Al-Qadhdhafi's recent proposal.

The primary item on the agenda was the possible meeting between Hissein Habre, Al-Qadhdhafi, and Goukouni Oueddei. Naturally, the head of state was asked questions on this issue. He stated, however, that he was not aware of such a summit. He said that if such a summit were to be held it would involve only the Chadian and Libyan heads of state.

[Habre] We are now ready to discuss the only issue which I can say was part of the efforts made by the chairman of the OAU, the chairman of the ad hoc committee, and the member countries of the ad hoc committee to [words indistinct]. This is a certain method of work.

But if all these can be achieved, we believe that it will be a good thing, something positive [words indistinct] for a solution to the extent a dialogue between Hissein Habre and Al-Qadhdhafi has been termed as difficult, and that Hissein Habre and Al-Qadhdhafi are for now motivated by good faith, authority, and determination to reach a definitive settlement of the land dispute which has divided the two countries and peoples. [Word indistinct] who speaks of a summit between Al-Qadhdhafi and Hissein Habre, since the former is not here, and that other heads of state, the chairman of the OAU, or the chairman of the ad hoc committee, are here and [words indistinct]. And on this Chad's stance is clear and firm, [words indistinct].

There is a conflict between Libya and Chad and it is this dispute which has been the object of several resolutions of the OAU, particularly of the ad hoc committee responsible, and these are the exact terms of the resolution on the Chad-Libya border dispute.

[Dago] The president has been clear and [words indistinct] on the conditions for the holding of the meeting: For the time being they derive from the fact that the two leaders are motivated by equal goodwill, he added. As far as Al-Qadhdhafi's proposals were concerned, the head of state has appreciated the prudence and the [word indistinct], two rare characteristics for the Libyan regime. Let us wait and see, we will soon know if Al-Qadhdhafi's proposals are serious or not.

On the Libyan prisoners of war and the reconstruction of Chad, El Hadj Hissein Habre stated that they were only consequences of the war and consequently could be settled as part of the resumption of diplomatic relations and the beginning of good-neighborliness and cooperation between the countries, on the condition, he said, that Tripoli's intentions are [word indistinct].

In a nutshell, in the face of the new diplomatic situation, the head of state has not been excessively optimistic, even though he [words indistinct] expects action. This is certainly what he told the newly elected chairman of the OAU, Moussa Traore of Mali, and the OAU secretary general, Ide Oumarou, with whom he held lengthy talks this morning.

A new development, as part of the head of state's contacts in Addis Ababa, is the more than 2 hours of talks that he held yesterday evening with his Ghanaian counterpart, Captain Jerry Rawlings. The two presidents, who were meeting for the first time, evidently enjoyed each other's company, since they were seen coming out of their meeting hand in hand. For the time being, all the contacts thus established must be followed by [word indistinct] and, why not, by the establishment of cooperation between the two countries. [end recording]

Libya

Soviet Envoy Summoned Over Palestinian Question

LD2805184588 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1540 GMT 28 May 88

[Text] Tripoli, 28 May, (JANA)—The People's Chamber of the People's Foreign Liaison Bureau summoned the Soviet ambassador to the Jamahiriyah to seek clarifications from him on Zionist claims that the Soviet Union has informed the Zionists that it no longer calls for an independent Palestinian state.

PLO's 'Arafat Arrives in Tripoli on Visit

LD3005071888 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0712 GMT 30 May 88

[Text] Tripoli, 30 May (JANA)—Brother Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, arrived in Tripoli yesterday on a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah.

Meets With Al-Qadhdhafi

LD3005184888 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 30 May 88

[Text] The brother leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution Forces, is on an official visit to the Libyan Jamahiriyah. Brother leader Abu 'Ammar has met with Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and a number of senior Libyan officials.

According to reliable Palestinian sources, the Palestinian-Libyan talks dealt with the latest developments in the occupied territories in light of the escalation of the blessed popular uprising [words indistinct]

The two sides also discussed ways of supporting the popular uprising to enable it to continue until our Palestinian people achieve victory and establish their independent Palestinian state.

The sources added that brother leader Abu 'Ammar and Col al-Qadhdhafi also examined the situation in the Arab world and ways of ensuring the success of the Arab emergency summit—to make its convening worthwhile—and to provide the Palestinian popular uprising with all means of material and political support.

Moreover, the Libyan leader reiterated Libya's principled stand and support for the struggle of our Palestinian people and their heroic uprising in the occupied Palestinian land under the leadership of the PLO, their sole legitimate representative.

This was stated at a meeting in Tripoli between Sister Umm Jihad [wife of assassinated Palestinian leader Abu Jihad] and Col al-Qadhdhafi and his wife, who gave their condolences on the martyrdom of the brother leader, symbol, and hero Abu Jihad. The brother colonel hailed the outstanding role of the martyr-symbol in provoking the outbreak of the uprising and developing armed struggle.

Foreign Liaison Secretary Meets Chad's Habre

LD2805120688 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1121 GMT 28 May 88

[Text] Addis Ababa, 28 May (JANA)—A meeting has been held in the Ethiopian capital, Addis Ababa, between the brother secretary of the People's Bureau of the People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and [Chadian President] Hissein Habre.

The announcement made by the brother leader of the revolution in his speech on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the founding of the OAU was reviewed during the meeting, and agreement was reached between them, in light of the announcement made by the brother leader. It also was agreed that the two countries would solve their problems, if any, in a fraternal and amicable way.

During the meeting, Hissein Habre stressed that relations between the Libyan Arab and Chadian peoples were incomparable in their close connection, interrelationship, and depth; that a high-level delegation from Chad would leave for the Jamahiriyah; and that successive meetings would be held between the two sides after that.

Burkinabe President Compaore Arrives for Visit

LD2805201888 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 28 May 88

[Text] On his arrival in Tripoli this evening, accompanied by a delegation, Captain Compaore gave a statement to a JANA correspondent in which he expressed his pleasure and that of the delegation at visiting the Great Jamahiriyah.

He said: I am very happy to be in a country which I know very well, and I would like to convey the greetings of the Burkinabe people to the Libyan Arab people and their leader, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi.

In his statement he praised the brother leader's speech on the 25th anniversary of the OAU and Africa Day. He said that the revolutionary steps announced by the leader have dominated the discussions at the African summit. It was an initiative saluted by the African leaders, and it is also a victory for Africa. We, as Africans, should attend to the cause of peace and confront the enemies of the peoples of this continent.

Captain Blaise Compaore, chairman of the CNR [National Council of the Revolution] and head of state in the Burkina Jamahiriyah, arrived in Tripoli this evening with an accompanying delegation on a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah.

Captain Compaore was received at Tripoli International Airport. Col Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir, commander in chief of the Libyan Arab Armed Forces, was at the forefront of those who received him. A number of officers of the Libyan Arab Armed Forces, and the Burkinabe ambassador and staff of the Burkinabe Embassy also participated in the reception.

Meets With Al-Qadhdhafi

LD2905101388 Tripoli JANA in English 0935 GMT 29 May 88

[Text] Tripoli, May 29, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Captain Blaise Compaore, the president of the Popular Front and the head of the state in the Jamahiriyah of Burkina Faso, conveyed to the leader of the revolution the African heads of state and government appreciation and lauding of the revolutionary steps he announced on Chad and the restoration of relations with African brothers on the occasion of the great anniversary of Africa.

He asserted that the said steps are a victory for Africa and its peoples.

This came during a lengthy meeting held between the leader and Captain Compaore. During this meeting relations between Great Jamahiriyah and the Jamahiriyah of Burkina Faso and the consolidation of cooperation amongst African countries were discussed.

Departs Tripoli

LD2905170088 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1600 GMT 29 May 88

[Text] Tripoli, 29 May (JANA)—Captain Blaise Compaore, chairman of the National Council of the Revolution and head of state of the Burkinabe Jamahiriyah, and his accompanying delegation left Tripoli at midday today.

There was a farewell cermony for Capt Compaore at Tripoli International Airport where Colonel Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir, commander in chief of the Libyan Arab forces, was in the forefront of those who saw him off.

A number of senior officers from the Libyan Arab forces and the Burkinabe ambassador together with a number of staff from the Burkinabe Embassy also took part.

Capt Compaore made a statement to JANA in which he asserted that his visit has had very positive results as far as the bilateral relations of the two countries are concerned. We have also reaffirmed our commitment to our revolutionary brethren in Africa and our solidarity with all those who are fighting throughout the world against imperialism, racism, and Zionism.

He added: I take this opportunity to salute the Libyan Arab people and their strong determination to fight injustice, imperialism, racism, and Zionism.

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Turkish Premier Ozal

LD3005141688 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 30 May 88

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution received today Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal, who is leading a government delegation on a visit to the Jamahiriyah. The meeting reviewed the historic Libyan Arab-Turkish relations and the friendly ties between the Great Jamahiriyah and Turkey.

The brother leader of the revolution recalled the period of Italian colonialism, which began with the invasion of Libya in 1911 soon after Turkey's departure from Libya, which left the doors wide open to the fascist colonial hordes. The Libyan Arab people paid a high price as a result of Turkey's withdrawal. Libya was thus a target of Italian colonialism. The Libyan Arab people lost 700,000 martyrs in confronting this colonialism. In a single day, Italian colonialists deported 4,000 Libyans. Their fate and that of their children still remains unknown. Those Libyan Arabs who managed to survive suffered years of oppression and torture. Some were made homeless and remained so throughout the period of Italian colonization, until the liberation of Libyan Arab soil following the emergence of the Great Al-Fatih Revolution and the expulsion of 20,000 Italian settlers.

In the face of these historic events, Libyan Arabs view this question in such a way as not to absolve Turkey of its historic responsibility. They are fully convinced of the need to void any vengeful reaction from coming generations of the Great Jamahiriyah should Turkey remain aloof from rectifying the enormous historic injustice—something undoubtedly understood and fully appreciated by Turkey.

In this vein, the principle of compensation has exisited throughout the passage of time. Germany, for example, has been paying reparations to the Zionists because it inherited the legacy of Nazi Germany. Italy should be responsible for the misdeeds of fascist Italy and the misdeeds that preceded fascist Italy. On this basis it is logical that Turkey should bear the responsibility of Ottoman Turkey.

So that such a tragedy may not be repeated and colonialism may not reemerge, all nations which have been colonized have every right to demand reparations.

Ozal Departs

LD3005195488 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1835 GMT 30 May 88

[Text] Tripoli [no date as received]—Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal and the delegation accompanying him left Tripoli today at the end of their official visit to the Great Jamahiriyah. A departure ceremony was held.

The brother secretary of the General People's Committee [Umar Mustafa al-Muntasir] led those who bade farewell to the Turkish prime minister. A number of General People's Committee members, a number of officers of the Libyan Armed Forces, members of the diplomatic corps accredited to the Great Jamahiriyah, and the ambassador and staff of the Turkish Embassy in the Great Jamahiriyah participated in the send-off.

Prior to his departure, the Turkish prime minister said in a statement to JANA:

"I have visited the areas of Ras Lanuf and Al-Brigah and had the opportunity to see a major project, the man-made river project, which will transfer huge quantities of water from the south to the coastal area. This is my fifth visit to the Jamahiriyah. I have good friends in this country. I hope that the strong friendship and common cooperation between our two countries will be consolidated and developed. Commercial cooperation will be developed continuously. We will cooperate in many other industrial spheres. I proudly witnessed the great progress the Jamahiriyah has realized, thanks to the great Fatih and its leader. We will make every effort to support this friendly and fraternal country and back the development (?plan) in all fields. I am happy with my visit, which will contribute to consolidating the good relations between our two countries."

JANA Comments on Bilateral Relations With Egypt

LD2805134888 Tripoli JANA in English 1110 GMT 28 May 88

["The Editor of Arab Affairs Commentary"—JANA headline]

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Ma' [May] 28, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The People's Foreign Liaison Bureau issued a statement on the 8th Al-Ma' current regarding some press sources on efforts to improve relations between Great Jamahiriyah and Egypt asserting the firm and principled stance of Great Jamahiriyah in this respect.

These press sources persisted in repeating the same reports on these efforts despite their knowledge of the stance of Great Jamahiriyah.

The editor of Arab affairs in JANA commented on the said claims. He pointed out Great Jamahiriyah is not in need of repeating its firm stances and regrets the Arab rulers ruminating talk on reconciliation between Great

Jamahiriyah and Egypt for this constitutes a contempt to the scores of martyrs and pure blood spilt on Arab land for Palestine and at their forefront martyrs and blood of the Egyptian people.

The editor asserted that the talk of bilateral dispute is a ridicule to the historical betrayal to a difference in the viewpoints.

Moroccan Premier's Remarks on Egypt Criticized

LD3005121688 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1105 GMT 31 May 88

[Text] Tripoli, 30 May (JANA)—The Moroccan prime minister has asserted that Egypt should take part in the proceedings of the Algiers emergency Arab summit. In a statement he made in the Egyptian capital, he added that Morocco will be in the forefront of those calling for the return of Egypt to the Arab League.

JANA's Arab affairs editor, commenting on this, says: If this is the case, will Morocco then not ask the Arab summit to call upon the so-called state of Israel to join the Arab League, and thereby take part in the summit proceedings? This would make the Palestinian people the Arab nation's common enemy. Efforts would then be exerted to annihilate them.

The editor adds that the Algiers emergency summit conference was called to discuss only one issue, the uprising of the Palestinian people and its consolidation and progress. Nothing else should be discussed.

The editor says that discussion of any other issue at the summit will be viewed as a conspiracy against the Palestinian people and their cause and an attempt to (?undermine) the revolution of stones, which is treason against the Arab nation.

Alleged Presence of Troops in Sudan Denied

LD2805210288 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1400 GMT 28 May 88

[Text] Tripoli, 28 May, JANA—Official Cairo radio has claimed that there are Libyan forces in Sudan which threaten Chad's borders. The Arab affairs editor had this to say:

First, there are no temporary or passing maneuvers with revolutionary positions. The Great September Revolution pursues a basic, firm line in dealing with issues.

Second, the Great Jamahiriyah has repeatedly confirmed that it has no forces in sisterly Sudan. How can these imaginary forces, invented by the imagination of the official Egyptian information service, threaten Chad's borders?

Third, the Egyptian Government's information service is the only discordant voice amid the wide appreciation expressed by the African leaders for the attitude of the Great Jamahiriyah toward the Chadian problem and the Jamahiriyah's boost, which has enabled the African summit to overcome the obstacle which this problem represents.

Fourth, the Egyptian Government information service, by repeating such allegations, is striving to upset this African atmosphere of reconciliation. As such, this is an irresponsible attitude which encourages sedition and the setting back of the OAU's efforts.

Fifth, the Egyptian media claims are a base encroachment and slander—with no justification other than the sowing of sedition—of the statements of brother officials in the Sudan who have repeatedly and categorically said that the claims about the presence of Libyan Arab forces in Sudan are unfounded.

Finally, we can only thank the Egyptian information media for this "pan-Arab attitude," which undoubtedly reflects the official attitude. This makes us sadder for the passing of that period when Egypt was [words indistinct] and a pioneer of pan-Arab and African struggle under the leadership of the late Jamal Abd al-Nasir and the solid rock upon which the plots of the enemies of Arabism and Africa were shattered.

Morocco

Prime Minister Interviewed on Sahara Issue

JN3105103088 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 29 May 88 p 3

[Interview with Prime Minister Azzedine Laraki by Thana' Yusuf in Rabat; date not given]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] I said: "In the communique on the restoration of diplomatic relations between Morocco and Algeria there was a reference to solving the Western Sahara problem, although that reference did not quite clarify the agreement on the problem. Does it mean the rapprochement places the Sahara problem in the hands of the United Nations and the approach is to support bilateral relations, or is the restoration of relations the result of concessions and an understanding that has not been announced?"

The Moroccan prime minister replied:

"I believe there is a return to common sense in international relations in general, and with regard to Moroccan-Algerian relations in particular. Algeria is a fraternal Arab country. The return or the resumption of diplomatic relations is a return to reason. Algeria's stand on the Sahara issue has been declared several times. It is founded on the basis that the Sahrawis have the right to self-determination. Morocco has acceded to such a demand. It has accepted it and accepted an honest and free referundum supervised by the United Nations. Theoretically, Algeria agrees with a group of other states that have the same stand but those states have not

severed their relations with Morocco. Thus there is a return to normal with regard to international relations. The split between Morocco and Algeria is over the Sahara issue, an issue that is not more serious than disputes among other states that differ over bigger and more profound problems while still maintaining diplomatic ties."

I asked: "Do you believe the resumption of Moroccan-Algerian relations will be an incentive for greater rapprochement in the world?"

Dr Laraki answered:

"I sincerely believe so. The influence of Morocco and Algeria in the western part of the world is not insignificant. The Moroccan-Algerian dispute was preventing the creation of an entity that brings together the Maghreb countries including Mauritania. Such a grouping is an economically-integrated bloc. It has historical roots. It not only reflects the desire of political officials but also the desire of the peoples of the countries in the region. It has demographic weight and influence, as the population of the region will be 100 million by the end of the century. This economically-integrated entity will, by virtue of its geographic position in the southern Mediterranean opposite Europe, be able to give the Arabs in general great influence in confronting the external challenges imposed upon them from outside the region." [passage omitted]

I asked: "One last question. In light of the latest developments between Morocco and Algeria, there are signs that the UN secretary general will intensify his efforts, during and after the OAU summit, to solve the Sahara problem. Will Morocco be putting forward a new plan or ideas to overcome the deadlock and the problems preventing a referundum at the earliest opportunity?"

The Moroccan prime minister replied:

"We are prepared to give more help to the United Nations, and I say more because we have already cooperated with the United Nations on a wide scale. It suffices to know that Morocco considers the Sahara as an indivisible part of its national soil, and yet it agreed to a referundum. Indeed, I affirm that Morocco will abide by the result of the referundum. His majesty the king has affirmed such a commitment at the United Nations. We are fully prepared to cooperate. We shall place at the UN secretary general's disposal all the experience and apparatus we have so that a referundum can be held in a free, honest, and unblemished climate."

I thanked the prime minister and left him to carry on with his many and urgent tasks.

Sudan

Al-Mahdi Denies Peace Proposals With Garang

EA2705191288 Khartoum SUNA in English 1615 GMT 27 May 88

[Text] Addis Ababa, 27th May—Premier Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi yesterday denied the reports published by the Kenyan DAILY NATION that he had presented a new peace initiative to the leader of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement, SPLM, Colonel John Garang.

Al-Mahdi confirmed that no change had occurred in Sudan's attitude of considering the democratic dialogue as the only means of solving the southern problem.

Israel, U.S. 'Company' Said Tied to Bombings

JN2805150888 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1428 GMT 28 May 88

[Text] Khartoum, 28 May (SANA)—The right-wing newspaper AL-SUDANI published here today said that the committee entrusted with investigating the Acropol Hotel and the British Club bombings in Khartoum has indicated the involvement of the Israeli intelligence service, Mosad, in the operation, through an American company that works in the terrorism field.

The newspaper quoted a security source as saying that the committee will submit its report to the public prosecutor the day after tomorrow, Monday, following the conclusion of the investigations and the detention of those accused of involvement in the incident.

The source said that strict security measures are being taken at airports, ports, and main hotels to check the identity of foreigners. He said more restrictions will be imposed on those applying for entry visas into the country.

Tunisia

Relations With Ethiopia Restored 26 May

LD26051747 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 26 May 88

[Excerpts] This afternoon, President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali met with President Haile Mariam Mengistu of Ethiopia at the National Palace in Addis Ababa.

We have learned that the meeting, attended on the Tunisian side by Foreign Minister Mahmoud Mestiri, took place in an extremely cordial atmosphere and dealt with the future of relations between the two countries. We have also learned that the Ethiopian president, who accorded a warm welcome to the head of state, expressed his great admiration for the new era in Tunisia and for the person responsible for that.

President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, stressing that the numerous achievements which his excellency has carried out in Tunisia in a short time are regarded as a source of pride for Africa as a whole.

The following joint communique was issued after the meeting:

In a spirit of African solidarity, and out of the desire to promote relations of friendship and cooperation based on the principles of equality, respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of states, and noninterference in their domestic affairs, His Excellency President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali and Comrade Haile Mariam Mengistu, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Ethiopian Workers Party, president of the People's Republic of Ethiopia, and commander in chief of the Ethiopian Revolutionary Armed Forces, have decided to restore diplomatic relations between their two countries.

The two leaders voiced their optimism that the resumption of relations will open up a new era of close cooperation between the two countries for the good of the two peoples and that it will help strengthen African unity and solidarity.

Kuwait

Amir Urges Peace in Messages to Reagan, Gorbachev

LD2805154088 Kuwait KUNA in English 1136 GMT 28 May 88

[Text] Kuwait, May 28 (KUNA)—H.H. the amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah Saturday called on the two superpowers to make Israel listen to the new Palestinian will, find a mechanism for stopping the Iraq-Iran war and help resolve the questions of Lebanon, South Africa and Namibia.

In letters addressed to U.S. President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev on the eve of their Moscow summit, his highness hoped that successes made by the earlier summit in the fields of nuclear disarmament and settlement of the Afghan issue would be followed by additional accomplishments in the interest of mankind.

Welcoming previous achievements, the amir, who is current chairman of the Organization of Islamic Conference said proximity between the two superpowers cuts down substantial expenses, reduces dangers of confrontation and opens vistas of joint cooperation to include issues of the natural and human environment.

'We know that your meeting will include human rights and regional conflicts,' his highness said in his message, 'this is a confirmation of human dignity and peace, and under this title the current Palestinian uprising comes into your deliberations.'

Noting that human rights are the same everywhere and recognized under all beliefs and international covenants, the OIC chairman said the Palestinians after waiting 40 years in hope of just peace could not find but stones to express their demands and rejection of Israeli repression.

The Israeli entity, [word indistinct] by continuous suppressing it could cut off the Palestinians from their roots and wipe out their history from memories of the new generation and the entire world, he noted.

'Yet the uprising came to remind that right never dies and the determination and sacrifices made in the curse of this revolt created a new situation which bespeaks itself at the local and world level,' his highness emphasized.

Appreciating the role of the international media in projecting this Palestinian will, the OIC hoped that the Moscow summit 'will help the Israeli entity listen to the voice of this new will and dissuade its (Israel) leaders from following path counter to history's ever changing movement.'

H.H. the amir hailed the Soviet Union's "pioneering step in dealing with the difficult strife in Afghanistan, and determining a timetable for (troop) withdrawal."

"And we hope that your countries would be a helping hand to return of peace in Afghanistan, and steering it clear of domestic struggles so that it dedicates itself to development and construction," the Kuwaiti head of state went on.

H.H. likened the struggles of Afghan and Palestine people, asserting that each of the two has historic and genuine rights to his homeland.

"Their deep-roots are the best of evidence. And both nations have rejected the status quo, and created a new reality," the amir said, adding "we have big hopes that you would expand the domain of rights and restore it to its legitimate people, and help stop aggressions."

In his letters, the OIC chairman wished that the superpowers would initiate serious efforts to enforce U.N. Security Council Resolution 598 ordering a ceasefire in the Iran-Iraq war and establish peace in the Arabian Gulf region.

"Despite its value, no resolution can bear fruit without steps to enforce it or moves to lay the ground for its execution. We trust that your gathering would address this matter," the Arab leader went on.

The amir noted that the eight-year-old conflict is still raging and taking a heavy toll on humans and causing extensive damage and devastation on land, at sea and in the air.

Turning to Lebanon, the amir pointed out that this Arab country has been torn by domestic extremisms and external effects.

"Its cities have been turned into battlefields. Murder, subversion, and indulging in terrorism have become a daily practice. The winds of bigotry have blown the flags of national unity into a distant place," H.H. said.

He added that Lebanon and the entire Middle East countries can nowadays find advanced examples in the two big powers of peaceful co-existence between creeds and religions within the framework of national unity, mutual respect and good neighborliness.

The amir also laid considerable stress on the plight of the peoples of South Africa and Namibia "who are seeking justice on their land, equality in dignity and human rights."

In his concluding notes, the OIC chairman said "the shown ability to reach resolutions on international issues such as disarmament, and successes regarding regional conflicts, Afghanistan being an example, expanded the fields of hope before the vanquished peoples and developing nations."

"Even the advanced peoples are anxious to see humanity marching towards greater security, peace and cooperation, the fruits of which are beneficial to each and everyone," the Kuwaiti leader stressed.

The amir added that peace is enshrined in the Islamic holy script, the Koran, and had been preached by all preceding divine religions and embraced by international charters.

"For more peace you meet, and for more peace I write to you," concluded the amir.

Saudi Arabia

King Fahd Receives U.S. Envoy Vernon Walters

LD2905152688 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1430 GMT 29 May 88

[Text] King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, the custodian of the two holy mosques, may God protect him, received in his office at Al-Salam Palace this afternoon U.S. envoy Vernon Walters, the permanent representative to the United Nations, and the delegation accompanying him.

The meeting was attended by His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister, and the charge d'affaires of the U.S. Embassy to the Kingdom [name indistinct].

Interior Minister on Hajj, Talks in Cairo

LD2905155388 Kuwait KUNA in English 1354 GMT 29 May 88

[Text] Cairo, May 29 (KUNA)—Prince Nayif ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, Saudi Arabia's minister of interior, has emphasized that the already existing measures for protecting the safety of pilgrims and holy shrines would be stepped up because of the prevailing circumstances.

His remarks came in an interview published by the Egyptian weekly newsmagazine UKTUBAR in its edition for the week published here Sunday.

Prince Nayif expressed confidence that maximum level of stability and security would be established at the holy lands this year and as per directives of the custodian of the two holy mosques King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, the Saudi concerned authorities enlisted all possible human and material energies to serve the pilgrims and preserve their safety and enable them to perform hajj rituals in peace and security.

Prince Nayif highlighted the outcome of his recent visit to Egypt during which he delivered a message from the custodian of the two holy mosques to President Husni Mubarak on bilateral relations, Arab, Islamic and international matters of mutual interests.

He said he explained to President Mubarak and other Egyptian officials that what had been undertaken by Iranian elements during the last hajj season would not be allowed to be repeated as the Kingdom, with the blessing of the Almighty and support of all Moslems, has decided to honour its responsibilities towards the security of the pilgrims and the holy shrines and determined not to allow any anti-Islamic or personal motives to surface during hajj.

On the Iranian rejection to OIC's [Islamic Conference Organization] foreign ministers resolution for limiting pilgrims number, Prince Nayif said the Iranian acceptance or rejection makes no difference, but the important thing is that the decision has been taken and the Kingdom will implement it. The Iranians were informed that the Kingdom would not accept more than 45,000 Iranian pilgrims this year, he said.

Asked about the Iranian row on the matter, Prince Nayif told the weekly that 'the Arab world has been surrounded by many evils and those who mastermind these evil deeds spare no effort to disturb the security in our region. They did so and are still doing.'

But, Prince Nayif added, by awareness and preparation, Arab and Islamic nations could repulse such evil elements.

Prince Nayif reiterated that the Saudi decision for breaking diplomatic relations with Iran has nothing to do with hajj affairs and a decision over whether the Iranians will come to hajj or not should be decided by the Iranian rulers bearing in mind that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia would never tolerate any offensive acts or any attempt to exploit hajj season for serving the interests of some regimes or persons or any action that might sow discord seeds among Moslem brothers.

Prince Nayif termed his recent talks in Cairo with his Egyptian counterpart, Major General Zaki Badr as fruitful as useful and that the viewpoints on security items raised were almost identical.

He said security cooperation between the Kingdom and Egypt did not break and his recent talks with the Egyptian officials were for enhancing and reactivating these ties.

Prince Nayif expressed aspiration for more constructive cooperation between Egypt and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to realise the best interests of both countries and said the existing cooperation between the two countries was bigger than any agreements.

The minister branded terrorism as an international phenomenon that requires an international cooperation to deal with and called for a joint Arab action to confront terrorism.

He said he discussed with the Egyptian war minister 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah ways for promoting military cooperation between the two countries and said the date of King Fahd's upcoming visit to Egypt will be fixed later.

Saddam on 'Superiority' at Al-Faw, Al-Shalamjah
JN2805184588 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1610 GMT 28 May 88

["Full recording" of speech by President Saddam Husayn at ceremony to decorate officers for valor; place and date not given]

[Text] We now move [as heard] to things which the soldiers can learn about without any harm done. Let us ask what are the additional lessons we have learned—apart from what we have already mentioned [as heard] in the military sphere—from the Al-Faw and Al-Shalamjah [Shalamcheh] battles, from the Ramadan al-Mubarak and Tawakkalna 'Ala Allah operations?

You and the whole world remember how the world media used to deal with the strength of our Armed Forces. They always concentrated on the technical aspect of their strength. They confined this strength to the technical aspect. When they referred to a certain superiority in the Iraqi Armed Forces, they concentrated on the technical aspect and ignored other aspects, either wittingly or unwittingly.

They used to say that Iran cannot overcome Iraq and defeat it, because Iraq has supremacy over Iran in armor and in air power, despite the fact that Iran has supremacy over Iraq in infantrymen. This is what the Western media, the Zionists, and those who are misled or misleading used to say.

The most important lesson whose details were conveyed to the Iranians and to all those who planned evil against Iraq is that the Iraqi infantryman is superior to the Iranian infantryman, all things being equal. He is also superior in terms of the difficult circumstances in which all of our arms have the same effect and strength. This is one of the most effective lessons. It conveyed the message to the Iranian rulers and to others that when other conditions are considered, the Iraqi infantryman is superior in combat to the Iranian infantryman. Indeed, the Iraqi infantryman has become superior.

The Al-Faw terrain permits only limited armored forces, as does Al-Shalamjah terrain. Therefore, the main decisive factor of the battle has been the infantryman, a man who walked on foot between 20 and 30 km during combat operations. What is the normal distance that the infantryman can cover in 24 hours while fighting? What is it? [indistinct answers by some of those present] Then we can say 8 km within 24 hours. Then 35 hours can be distributed in 5 days. Within 35 hours, the Iraqi soldier reached Ra's al-Bishah and hoisted the Iraqi flag after liberating Al-Faw city. This is the Iraqi infantryman now.

So this is a tangible change. It is a message to those who are bragging about the continuation of the war. They have to realize this fact, namely that superiority is not only in the Armed Forces. True, we have the edge in the Armed Forces and armor, but we are also ahead in infantry. We are likewise superior in artillery. We are also superior in the Navy and engineering. Strategically, we have superiority. It becomes more so with the passage of time, and the balance tips in our favor against the obdurate, vicious enemy that seeks expansion and evil.

In 1981 and from this place, if I remember correctly, I directed a message on the air to Israel, in which I said: O Israel, O Zionists: One way or another you are driving the Iranians to prolong and expand the war at the expense of Iraq with the objective of destroying this new spirit of building and dignity in Iraq. But we say: God willing, this evil dream will not materialize, and the day will come when you will rue your malignant role in the war and prolonging it and in driving the Iranians to engage in this evil thing.

As I speak now, I think the Israelis and Zionists have regretted their role in prolonging the war. They had hoped or imagined that, if Iraq were crushed, there would be new ruins in their interest and not in the interest of the Arab nation, which has been clinging to its rights and construction.

But, thanks be to God, Iraq is now stronger in all fields. We built our convictions on conclusions and not just on information. But as far as Iraq was concerned, we acted on the strength of information as dictated by our minds and consciences and our confidence in future generations. Time favors us rather than the Iranians, who used to say it favored them as the war progressed. Why is that? Because we are guided by the salutary standards of modern times on the humanitarian, national, and pan-Arab levels.

On the other hand, they are guided by charlatanism and humbug. The standards of modern times are rooted in truth. They are based on conviction. But charlatanism and humbug are rooted in misguidedness and mysteriousness. Here we work in the light, and there they work in darkness. So charlatanism and humbug would have triumphed in Iraq and spread to other parts of the Arab world, God forbid, if the Iraqis were in slumber and unaware of their humanitarian, national, and pan-Arab role. Then it would have been too late for the Iraqis to do anything about it.

When charlatanism and humbug encountered such mentally alert people as the Iraqis of all walks of life, who have the firm confidence to confront any dark possibilities from whatever source, and when the war progressed according to the laws of modern times and the line of goodness spawned by these times, darkness was laid bare. And when darkness was laid bare, charlatanism was uncovered for what it is. When charlatanism was uncovered for what it is, there occurred a contradiction between true faith and charlatanism, humbug, and aggressiveness in Iran.

History will record, as the Iranians have come to realize—be they in the ranks of the regular Iranian Armed Forces or the so-called Iranian Revolutionary Guards—

that no political leadership has failed to secure the requirements for success as Iran's political and religious leaderships have done. The political and religious leadership have stripped them of all that is necessary for an army to succeed, more so in such a protracted war. They have deprived them of the legitimate right to fight. They have stripped them of the right means needed for battle. They have also denied them many material requirements in the political, economic, social, and technical areas.

Likewise, history, much to our satisfaction, will record that the Iraqi leadership secured for the Armed Forces all the requirements of success so the military could carry out its national and pan-Arab duties in defense of the land and honor, security, and sanctities both on the national and pan-Arab levels and on all fronts—political, ideological, economic, social, informational, and otherwise that are related to facts, clarity, and right.

So according to these considerations, we have judged the future to be for us, which is not to say that at present the Iranian soldier is not a good fighter. Nor are we saying that the Iranian Revolutionary Guards are not good fighters. But we say that they are not right and that they are misguided. Therefore, God is against them, as are the facts and nations around the world. They, too, will be against themselves when they realize they are following charlatanism and the wrong path in pursuit of evil aspirations at the expense of other nations and peoples—unjustifiably and without legal basis. Therefore, they are not fighting the way they did, say, 2 years ago.

In 2 or 3 months or 2 to 3 years their state of affairs will be so wretched that we will feel sorry for them. Characteristically, we wish our enemy well, except when he commits aggression against us. We are dutybound, however, to point out to the enemy that the path they are going down cannot get them anywhere and that, as time goes by, the situation in Iran deteriorates and more people die. The road ahead of them is open—the road of security and wellbeing.

They can, if they so choose, steer clear from the path of war and take the road to peace, which is open to them. If they do not take the opportunity that has opened for peace with honor, a day will come when they will regret having failed to avail themselves of the plan that the entire world offered them and Iraq accepted. I mean UN Security Council Resolution No 598, which they must accept without trickery or maneuvering.

Please convey greetings to the valiant ranks in your forces, the two corps, and through them to all the Iraqi Armed Forces, and to all corps of the Armed Forces. This is because there was admirable cooperation between the two corps and among all services in the Armed Forces. The Armed Forces made good and accurate use of the resources at their disposal.

I would like to emphasize points which I have reiterated many times; namely, that we do not hear anyone from the Iraqi Armed Forces saying: We are facing resistance. We only permit that, when the resistance reaches a commander, he should ask what he wants in terms of what he lacks—things that will help him in facing the new development, if it is really a new development. When we make plans we do not allow anybody to amend these plans by presenting justifications which are not relevant, which do not permit anybody to accept them as a means of changing plans to retreat from implementing them. [sentence as heard]

Wherever there is a national soil, even if it is an inch, everyone is responsible for restoring it to the homeland, expelling the invaders, and destroying them and their war machine. Destroying their war machine is inseparable from liberating the land because both lead to peace as quickly as possible, a peace which both the Iranians and the Iraqis will enjoy.

There is another lesson learned from the Al-Faw battle. It is a great message to the whole world, a message which charlatanism cannot tarnish in Iran. We would like Iranian public opinion to learn the facts as they are and know the true illusions of the Iranian rulers. We want the Iranians to learn that the charlatan Iranian rulers have been trying to keep the people in the dark. Someone might say that the liberation of Al-Faw is connected with certain circumstances, is caused by an Iranian oversight, an Iraqi deception, or by Iran's engagement in certain places.

They might say that this is due to the presence of military capabilities in this or that place, in this Army corps or in that Army corps. However, the Al-Shalamjah lesson entrenched Al-Faw's great lesson. The Al-Shalamjah lesson demonstrated that this ability is present in all the Iraqi Army corps and in all fields of combat from northern Iraq to southern Iraq. It demonstarted that this capability will develop and escalate because we are in the right and because our military capabilities will always be superior and greater. Our armaments will always increase and improve, be they manufactured in Iraq or imported from abroad.

They should learn the lesson. They should not study this lesson from the technical viewpoint. They should not try to find out how the Iraqis succeeded technically because this will not spare them the successive efforts of Iraq in defense of right and the truth. They should absorb this lesson from the strategic viewpoint. They should take into account the [words indistinct] and their strategic reasons. They should remember that they are not in the right, that the basic principle they use to demand that their forces remain steadfast is not available because God is not on their side and the world is not on their side. They are in the wrong. They are misled and the Iraqis are in the right. The Iraqis are on the good path, God willing.

God bless you, thank you.

President Receives Peace Conference Delegates

JN2905163188 Baghdad INA in English 1530 GMT 29 May 88

[Text] Baghdad, May 29, INA—President Saddam Husayn yesterday received here representatives of the international popular conference on peace, recently held in Baghdad.

President Husayn received in audience former Sudanese President Lieutenant-General Siwar al-Dhahab, chairman of world progress organization, Mr. Hans Gosher [name as received], chairman of the Higher Islamic Council, Dr Musa al-Musawi, chairman of the Islamic Popular Conference, Dr Ma'ruf al-Dawalibi, imam of Al-Aqsa Mosque, Muhammad Ibrahim Sharah, president of the Islamic Call International Association, Al-Shah Ahmed Nourani, president of Moroccan Journalists Union, Mohamed al-Yazgi and Minister of Parliament in Sierra Leone, Mr. "Mohammed Beshntaki" [name, quotation marks as received].

During the audience, President Husayn stressed "We are doing our utmost to achieve peace, so that the Iraqi and Iranian peoples enjoy the grace of peace... Even when we liberate the land we want peace," his excellency said.

The Iranian regime failed to understand the emphasis "We have put on peace, believing that Iraq is doing so out of a position of weakness and that the land it (Iran) is occupying could be used as a card to prolong the war," President Husayn said.

"Iraq is defending not only the civilization of Iraq and the Arab homeland, but, human civilization in general," his excellency told representatives of the Baghdad peace conference.

The war that Iran waged and expanded against Iraq "is a destructive process that ruins man's spiritual aspects," President Husayn stressed.

Representatives of the popular conference on peace lauded Iraq's serious endeavour to establish peace from a position of victory and capability.

Extolling historic leadership of President Husayn, the representatives said great victories of Iraq and liberation of Al-Faw and Shalamcheh [Iranian form of placename as received] would, for sure, contribute to hastening process of establishing just peace.

The audience was attended by Mr. Hasan 'Ali, member of the regional command of the Arab Ba'th Socialist Party [ABSP], secretary general of the National Patriotic Progressive Front, chairman of the conference's higher preparatory committee and press secretary of the president, Mr. Hani Wahib.

Reportage on Gulf War Combat Activities

Communique No 3,195

JN2705163188 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1605 GMT 27 May 88

[Communique No 3,195 issued by the Armed Forces General Comn. and on 27 May]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our valiant Armed Forces continued their combat activities last night and today as follows:

1. An enemy patrol attempted to approach one of our units' positions in the I Army Corps northern sector last night. Our men confronted it and killed five of its personnel. The rest of the patrol fled, leaving behind the dead bodies in no-man's-land.

Elsewhere in the same sector, five scoundrels were killed, an infantry position and a vehicle were destroyed, and four ammunition dumps were blown up.

2. Six infantry positions were destroyed and an ammunition dump was blown up in the II Army Corps central sector. A tubular launcher was destroyed and four ammunition dumps were blown up in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah.

3. Six enemy personnel were killed, two infantry positions were destroyed, and two ammunition dumps were blown up in the IV Army Corps sector east of Maysan. Also, an ammunition dump was blown up and an infantry position, a mortar, and a single-barreled machine gun were destroyed in the VI Army Corps sector east of Tigris.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 27 May 1988

Communique No 3,196

JN2805171688 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1638 GMT 28 May

[Communique No 3,196 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 28 May]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our valiant Armed Forces continued their combat activities last night and today as follows:

1. A force of our units in the I Army Corps northern sector attacked a number of enemy positions, destroying them, killing a number of scoundrels, and blowing up an ammunition dump.

The force then returned safely to base. In another portion of the sector, three personnel were killed, an infantry position destroyed, and an ammunition dump blown up.

2. Four infantry positions and a weapons position were destroyed in the II Army Corps central sector.

3. Units in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah inflicted the following losses on the enemy: Five tanks were destroyed and three ammunition dumps were blown up.

4. Three enemy personnel were killed in the IV Army Corps sector east of Maysan, and an infantry position and a vehicle were destroyed in the VI Army Corps sector east of the Tigris.

5. Two weapons positions and an observation post were destroyed in the VII Army Corps sector.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 28 May 1988

Communique No 3,197

JN2905165388 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1643 GMT 29 May 88

[Communique No 3,197 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 29 May]

[Text]In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our victorious Armed Forces continued their combat activities last night and today as follows:

1. Four enemy personnel were killed and one infantry position, two shovels [preceding word in English], and one large vehicle were destroyed in the I Army Corps northern sector and four infantry postiions and one vehicle were destroyed in the II Army Corps central sector.

2. One ammunition dump was blown up in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah, one single-barreled machinegun was destroyed, and one enemy personnel was killed in the IV Army Corps sector east of Maysan.

3. Our units in the VI Army Corps sector east of the Tigris inflicted the following losses on the aggressors: four scoundrels were killed; one 106-mm gun, one tubular launcher, one single-barreled machinegun, one infantry position, and one observation post were destroyed; and one ammunition dump was blown up.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 29 May 1988

Downing of Plane Denied

JN2705174988 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1725 GMT 27 May 88

[Text] Baghdad, 27 May (INA)—An Iraqi military spokesman has denied Iranian allegations on downing an Iraqi plane over the Arabian Gulf waters today.

In a statement to INA, the spokesman said that the Iranian claims in this regard are far from the truth and completely baseless. The spokesman challenged Iran to prove the soundness of its claims.

Iranian Bell 214 Shot Down

JN3005090888 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0852 GMT 30 May 88

[Text] Baghdad, 30 May (INA)—At 0845 [0445 GMT] today, Iraqi helicotpers downed an Iranian Bell 214 helicopter in the I Army Corps northern sector. In a statement to INA today, an Iraqi military spokesman said that after our helicopter scored a direct hit, the Iranian aircraft was seen falling in flames on enemy units.

Helicopter Downed East of Maysan

JN3005152388 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1514 GMT 30 May 88

[Statement by a military spokesman dated 30 May]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. At 1135 [0735 GMT] today, an enemy helicopter gunship tried to approach the positions of our forward units in the IV Army Corps sector east of Maysan.

Our field air defenses intercepted it with their weapons and managed to destroy and down it. It was seen crashing in flames in enemy territory. May God bless the men of our field air defenses in the heroic IV Army Corps sector.

[Dated] 30 May 1988]

Rabin: PLO Office in Al-'Arish Against Treaty
TA3105154088 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 31 May 88

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has reacted to remarks made yesterday by an Egyptian official regarding the establishment of a PLO office in Al-'Arish, saying that such a step would be viewed by Israel as a serious act: I have no doubt that such an office would not become a political tool, but would instead assist the PLO in perpetrating terrorist acts. This contravenes the peace treaty between Egypt and Israel.

Minister Rabin made the above remarks to our correspondent Arye Gus during a tour of Nabulus.

Shamir, Peres Offices React to Moscow Commentary
TA2905103288 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1000 GMT 29 May 88

[Text] Sources in the prime minister's office are playing down the statement by Moscow Radio that an international conference on the Middle East would not impose a settlement. The Foreign Ministry, on the other hand, sees the Soviet radio commentary as a positive signal. Jack Katzenell reports:

[Begin recording] Aides of Prime Minister Shamir point out that the Moscow Radio commentary was on the Hebrew-language service and was therefore aimed specifically at Israeli public opinion. We have official Soviet statements showing that they still want an authoritative international conference and will have the power to impose a settlement, Shamir's aides say. The prime minister's aides also play down the Moscow broadcaster's call to the PLO to recognize Resolutions 242 and 338. At the official level, they say, the Soviets are demanding PLO participation in the negotiations with or without recognition.

Foreign Ministry sources say the Moscow broadcast does reflect a Soviet position, and is one of many positive signals the Russians have been sending.

The prime minister's office can scarcely conceal its glee at the statement attributed to Mikhail Gorbachev that the future of Shim'on Peres is doubtful and therefore Moscow should also open lines of communication to Prime Minister Shamir.

Although the statement came from an unofficial Egyptian source, the journal AL-MUSAWWAR, Shamir's aides are convinced it was true. After all, they say, the reporter was with Egypt's Foreign Minister Al-Majid when he met Gorbachev.

Shamir's aides say there are no preparations at present for a meeting between the prime minister and any Soviet leader, but both Shamir and Eduard Shevardnadze will be in New York next week, and Shamir is willing to meet the Soviet foreign minister. What Shamir is not prepared to do, his aides say, is to make political concessions just for the sake of holding the meeting. [end recording]

Novik Comments on Soviet Mideast Stand, Summit
TA2905185688 Jerusalem Television Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 29 May 88

[Interview with Dr Nimrod Novik, Foreign Minister Peres' political adviser, by Me'ir Kohen; date and place not given—videotaped in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles]

[Text] [Novik] We—Peres in his talks and in other talks that I have held recently—heard very interesting things from the Soviets. There were definitely innovative positions presented to us. I would say the most interesting point is that some of the elements contained in the positions they presented are totally unacceptable to us, and the gaps are significant. On the other hand, the very presentation of new ideas demonstrated the Soviets' willingness to understand our problems. They are showing both a willingness to understand that our security problems are serious—that we will not underestimate them, and we will not allow others to do so—as well as a desire to find solutions to bridge the gaps. Even though these bridging efforts have not yet succeeded, the very fact that they recognize our needs and are trying to raise new ideas is encouraging.

At the same time we are faced with an additional problem. It sometimes happens—this has happened more than once in the past—that remarks made to us are not made to other parties. The PLO may hear one story, the Jordanians another, and this could apply to the Syrians, the Americans, and us as well. The question is whether what was presented to us as the official and authorized stance will also be presented to the Americans. If this is the case, I believe we have a basis here for additional work, with a chance of bridging the gaps.

[Kohen] Practically speaking, will any agreement on the Middle East be reached in the Moscow summit?

[Novik] All those involved in the political process actually have two goals. The first goal—and the chances for this goal are not good—is to bring about a breakthrough during the Moscow summit itself. It is difficult to believe, however, that all the gaps can be bridged in 3 days. The second goal, in contrast, is more realistic: to ensure that the process continues and that work on the political package goes on. This is for two reasons. First, if the process is stopped, it is clear to everyone that the extremists in the Arab world will begin to drag the region towards escalation, be this in words or in deeds...

[Kohen, interrupting] And this runs counter to the interests of both superpowers.

[Novik] Absolutely. Both the Soviets and the Americans are interested in peace and a solution in the region. The second reason: Even if it is impossible to reach a breakthrough in the coming week or two, or in the coming month or two, the goal is to ensure that in the future the package will be at the disposal of the new government in Jerusalem and the new administration in Washington. This is so that it will be unnecessary to waste time before renewing political efforts.

[Kohen] Dr Novik, you spoke of the points of agreement. What about the disputed points between the two countries? What about the international conference, the authority of such a conference, the PLO's participation, and the self-determination issues?

[Novik] The gaps between the positions are definitely significant. The U.S. assumption is that the Soviets view the conference plenum as the main focus for discussions, while we insist that discussions take place only in the bilateral forum, in the separate direct negotiations between us and each of our neighbors. Incidentally, the Soviets claim they are moving closer to the position acceptable to us. Another gap concerns the issue of Palestinian representation. For a long time the Soviets insisted that the PLO be represented in a separate delegation. The positions presented to us lately point to a totally new approach. There are several ideas here which may be acceptable to us, and several ideas which are totally unacceptable to us...

[Kohen, interrupting] What, for example?

[Novik] I would not like to elaborate at this stage. Still, the very fact that the Soviets understand that insisting on the PLO's participation as an independent delegation means there will be no negotiations, the very fact that they are trying to find different formulae, is positive in itself. Another problem we are facing is the self-determination issue. For a long time the Soviets argued that all parties concerned in the negotiations should accept the principle that the Palestinians have a right to self-determination, including an independent Palestinian state alongside the State of Israel, while today they are using different terms. They still insist that the Palestinians have a right to self-determination, but they leave open the question of whether self-determination will be in the framework of an independent state or in the framework of a confederation with Jordan. The gaps exist, but if what we heard indeed reflects the Soviet positions, I believe this will be very interesting to the Americans.

[Kohen] At the end of the summit the U.S. secretary of state will return to the region. What is expected of this visit?

[Novik] As I have said, it depends on what happens in the summit. If there is a breakthrough, which we are not anticipating, his visit will surely have an almost historic significance. There will be an attempt to translate the achieved agreement into the next stage of an effort to convene direct negotiations through the means of the international conference. If as anticipated, progress, but not a breakthrough, is achieved, I assume Shultz will continue to act to promote the process and to get the parties' positions closer to the plan he outlined.

Shamir Says Decline in Territories Unrest 'Clear'

TA3005193788 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 30 May

[Text] The prime minister says that the decline of the uprising in the territories is already clear and certain. Mr Shamir told our correspondent that the failure of the stone throwers and Molotov cocktail throwers is apparent, and although they are continuing their attempts they will not achieve anything.

Rabin Sees 'Significant' Decrease in Violence

TA3005130788 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 30 May 88

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin says that PLO terrorism is especially understanding of the workings of rightist extremism in Israel. Answering questions at the Berl School in Kefar Sava, Mr Rabin said that half of the Molotov cocktails which have been thrown over the last 2 weeks were part of the internal violence between the Palestinians. He said that Israel finds it difficult to prevent such violence. The defense minister added that recently there has been a significant decrease in the violence and number of demonstrations in the territories, and that signs of fatigue can be discerned. The Palestinians are claiming that the Arab world has abandoned them. They are also critical of the bosses in the headquarters who are living in villas and 5-star hotels in Europe from where they send orders, 90 percent of which are not carried out.

'Awwad Denies Present, Past Contacts With PLO

TA3005103788 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1000 GMT 30 May 88

[Text] In an affidavit presented today to the Jerusalem Magistrate's Court, Mubarak 'Awwad claimed he does not have extensive contacts with the PLO, nor did he have any in the past. 'Awwad sued Ilan Bakhar of MA'ARIV for defamation and for subjudice violations in an article the newspaper published approximately 2 weeks ago. In his affidavit 'Awwad denied all the claims raised against him in the article.

Bar-Lev Says Arson Result of Nationalist Motives

TA3105052088 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0400 GMT 31 May 88

[Text] Police Affairs Minister Hayim Bar-Lev says it is difficult to investigate recent cases of arson because there is no evidence. Minister Bar-Lev believes that most of the fires that broke out over the past few weeks resulted from arson perpetrated out of nationalistic motives.

Bar-Lev told our police affairs correspondent Moshe Nussbaum that of three cases of arson solved recently, two were found to result from nationalistic motives. He stressed that over the past month the police have been investing great efforts in dealing with the arson issue. Among other things, border policemen have increased their patrols in agricultural areas.

Rabin Held 'Secret' Meeting With Nabulus Notables

TA2905150088 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 29 May 88

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin met last week with three [as heard] public figures from Nabulus. It was the first such meeting since the beginning of the uprising in the territories. The meeting was kept secret.

Today it became known to Arye Gus, our correspondent in the territories. The meeting was held last Thursday in Tel Aviv. It was attended by Dr Hatim Abu Ghazalah, a member of the town council when Bassam al-Shak'ah was mayor, two members of the current town council, and Husan 'Abd al-Hadi, a member of the board of governors of Al-Najah University. They apparently dealt with issues linked to the situation in the territories and decided on further meetings. The defense minister's office would neither confirm nor deny that the meeting took place.

Participants, Agenda Disclosed

TA2905180288 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1605 GMT 29 May 88

[Report by Arye Gus]

[Text] The meeting between the defense minister and the four notables from Nabulus was kept secret by the participants, and became known to the Voice of Israel today. Four public figures from Nabulus conferred with the defense minister. Shmu'el Goren, the coordinator for government activities in the territories, also participated. The Arabs were: Dr Hatim Abu Ghazalah, former deputy to Bassam al-Shak'ah when he was mayor; Ibrahim 'Abd al-Hadi and 'Izzat Alul, members of the appointed local council; and Husan 'Abd al-Hadi, a member of the board of governors of Al-Najah University.

They were told on Thursday to attend a meeting with the coordinator of government activities and were taken to Tel Aviv where they met the defense minister. The main subject was the general situation in Judaea and Samaria. The Arabs brought up the difficult conditions of the inhabitants of the territories and asked for the pressures to be relieved. They said the issues were discussed in very general terms. The meeting lasted for over 1 hour but the participants want to play it down as much as possible.

They said that Palestinian representation was not possible because the uprising [previous word in Arabic] proved that the real leadership is the unified national command of the uprising.

The defense minister's office said in reply to a question that it neither confirms nor denies the existence of the meeting.

Rabin Briefs Knesset on Talks

TA3105162288 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 31 May 88

[Text] It is time to conduct talks and exchange ideas with all sectors of the population in the territories. These remarks were made by Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin after today's session of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee. Our correspondent Natan Gutman heard the minister:

[Begin recording] [Gutman] During the committee meeting, Knesset Member [MK] Shevah Weiss raised the issue of Rabin's meetings with Palestinians. Rabin replied that no such meetings had been held in the past because they would have been futile. Now, when the Palestinians are beginning to realize that no achievements would be reached through Molotov cocktails and stones, there is room for talks.

[Rabin] As the person representing the government to the local population, I believe it is time to start talking with all the various sections of that population.

[Gutman] Rabin stressed that the meetings are a result of the relative calm in the territories. As for the outcome of the talks, the defense minister said: The talks have not changed my stands. If the violence decreases, we will return to a more normal situation.

Rabin summarizes the present situation in the territories in one sentence: Coals are still burning under the thin veneer of relative calm.

The defense minister noted that these days part of the violence is directed inward, against Palestinians who maintain positions in the administrative, municipal, and economic systems in the territories. He also said that the defense establishment will not be able to force shopowners to open their shops.

During the committee session, Citizens Rights Movement MK Yosi Sarid presented statistics according to which 5,130 Palestinians were wounded during the intifadha [uprising]. The data is based on an official government document obtained by Knesset Members Sarid and Zucker. The statistics also show that 1 out of every 300 residents has been wounded, and 1 out of every 80 detained. The defense minister refused to address this issue, not having had an opportunity to look into the report.

On another issue, Rabin said that despite the incident in which a Gaza Strip baby was wounded, the IDF will continue using rubber bullets to disperse demonstrations. [end recording]

Palestinian Comments on Talks

TA3105045788 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 31 May 88

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has met four Palestinians from the territories and East Jerusalem. The Voice of Israel's Arabic affairs reporter says he saw Hanna Nasir, the chairman of the East Jerusalem Electric Corporation; 'Uthman al-Hallaq, editor of the pro-Jordanian AL-NAHAR paper; Yasir 'Ubayd, the director of hospital services in the territories, and Bishop Na'im Khuri of Bethlehem. All are regarded as pro-Jordanian. Reporter Leslie Susser spoke to Yasir 'Ubayd and asked him what the meeting had been about:

[Begin recording] ['Ubayd] The discussion was about the intifadha [uprising], and it can be divided into two main categories: one about the general political settlement, and on this line the minister expressed that the Shultz initiative has missed the train, that we cannot expect anything of the Gorbachev-Reagan meeting, and until the elections of Israel and the United States and maybe 6 months after, until each government accommodates to its internal situation, we cannot expect an active political process to start. So until June 1989 it's very difficult to imagine that any significant political process can be effectively started.

[Susser] Did you agree with his analysis?

['Ubayd] Well, I don't agree. I think it should start as soon as possible, but he was telling us, and of course we don't like it, but I don't know how much we can force upon Mr Rabin to start the political solution.

[Susser] If he says that the Shultz mission is dead virtually, did he offer any alternative, any new way of working...

['Ubayd, interrupting] He said we are receiving him because we are two very friendly countries, and our meeting is going to be a courtesy meeting, but we think that it cannot produce anything under the circumstances.

[Susser] But did he suggest any new way of working for an accommodation between Israel and the Palestinians?

['Ubayd] Well, he said he is willing to talk to any Palestinians who recognize [UN Resolutions] 242 and 338 only as the basis of the settlement, renounce violence and terror, and recognize Israel.

[Susser] Does this include the PLO?

['Ubayd] Absolutely no. [end recording]

The meeting was the second between Rabin and prominent Palestinians within a week, and some observers are attaching significance to what seems to be a new initiative by the defense minister.

Official Meets With W. Bank Village Heads

TA3105105888 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 31 May 88

[Text] The head of the Civilian Administration in the Janin District visited the village of Yamun today at the invitation of the village council. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that this is the first meeting of this kind after a long period without contacts between the Civilian Administration and the villages due to the events in the territories. Colonel Moshe El'ad spoke with the Yamun council members about renewing the Civilian Administration services to the inhabitants and about lifting the restrictions on travel to Jordan.

Last night the windshields of several Arab cars were shattered in the Hebron area and in the village of Bani Na'im. Arab residents claim the act was perpetrated by settlers. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that several Molotov cocktails were thrown at Israeli vehicles in Samaria last night, but there were no injuries and no damage was done.

More on Unrest, Related Incidents in Territories

3-Year-Old Killed in Gaza

TA2705142988 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 27 May 88

[Text] A 3-year-old girl was killed in the Zaytun neighborhood of Gaza at noon during the dispersal of a demonstration. Arab sources said she was asphyxiated by tear gas. The IDF spokesman in Gaza told our correspondent Moti Amir that the doctor at the Gaza hospital could not determine the cause of the girl's death because her family removed the body.

Our correspondent also reports that after Friday prayers there were several disturbances in the Gaza Strip that were dispersed with tear gas and rubber bullets. The Gaza Strip had been quiet until the conclusion of Friday prayers.

IDF Denies Responsibility

TA2905104088 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 29 May 88

[Text] At noon the IDF completed its investigation into the death on Friday of the child from Gaza's Zaytun neighborhood. She died in 'Aliya Hospital in the town. Her parents claimed she was asphyxiated by tear gas while a riot was being dispersed, but the IDF investigation showed clearly that IDF soldiers did not use tear gas in the Zaytun area on Friday.

IDF Fire Wounds Nabulus Youth

TA2905152288 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 29 May 88

[Text] An Arab youth was wounded by an IDF officer's gunfire in the village of Bazzariyah in the Nabulus area. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that an IDF squad entered the village this morning and encountered a stone barricade. Youths began throwing stones at the soldiers, and a 19-year-old youth tried to attack an officer with a large brick from close range. The officer shot and wounded him. The wounded youth was evacuated to a hospital in Nabulus.

Gush Emunim Official's Car Stoned

TA2905175588 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 29 May 88

[Text] Daniyela Weiss, Gush Emunim secretary, was involved in an incident in Qalqilyah. She told our correspondent Avshalom Ginosar that while traveling through town with two other people, her vehicle was stoned by dozens of girls who had just come out of school. She said her windshield was smashed and the car was damaged.

Daniyela Weiss and another passenger fired a large number of shots in the air but this did not stop the girls from continuing to stone them. Five minutes later an IDF force arrived and dispersed the girls. Weiss said shopowners who watched the incident did not help her.

1 Killed, 'At Least 10' Wounded

TA2905201988 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 29 May 88

[Text] At least 10 local residents were wounded in two incidents in Samaria this afternoon. Seven were wounded in the village of Jaba' in the Janin district, and three in the Balatah camp near Nabulus. In the incident in Jaba', a patrol was attacked with stones. The soldiers first used tear gas, then fired rubber bullets, and finally resorted to live fire. According to Arab sources a female resident of the village, An'am Ghanam, 25, was killed in the incident. This report is not confirmed by the IDF. In Balatah, there were disturbances, and in the course of dispersing the demonstrators three residents were wounded by rubber bullets. Arab sources say the number of people wounded is five.

Gaza Houses Sealed, Demolished

TA3005043188 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0400 GMT 30 May 88

[Text] The security forces last night demolished a house and boarded up a room in Rafah and the adjacent refugee camp belonging to residents who were involved in terrorist attacks. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that the house torn down belonged to a man who admitted having killed a policeman and a pharmacist from Rafah. He also fired at IDF soldiers and planted bombs inside Israel. The room that was boarded up was inhabited by a man who admitted to having planted bombs in the Gaza Strip and inside the Green Line.

In the Qalandiyah refugee camp north of Jerusalem, the home of a local resident who participated in hurling Molotov cocktails at Israeli vehicles and an IDF patrol was boarded up. Two other houses in the village of Al-'Ayzariyah near Jerusalem were also sealed. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that they belong to people suspected of throwing firebombs on the road near the village.

Another Gaza House Demolished

TA3005111888 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 30 May 88

[Excerpts] This morning the security forces demolished a house in Kafr Ra'i near Janin belonging to a resident suspected of having stabbed a Jewish boy in the Old City of Jerusalem approximately 2 months ago. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that the man is also suspected of having uprooted avocado trees in north Samaria and of setting fire to an Egged bus that was taking workers to Israel. [passage omitted]

In the Gaza Strip there is a partial commercial strike today and many workers have left for their work in Israel. The security forces lifted the curfew on the Al-Shati' refugee camp on the Gaza coast. This is reported by our correspondent Moti Amir.

Water Cut Off; Curfew Imposed

TA2805164488 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 28 May 88

[Text] Security forces imposed a curfew on the Al-Shati' refugee camp in order to prevent disturbances. The IDF spokesman in the Gaza Strip told our correspondent Moti Amir that the area was quiet today and there was brisk trading in most shops and markets.

Sewage flowed into the main water supply in Gaza due to a breakdown in the sewage system. The municipality and Civilian Administration cut the water supply in several neighborhoods and supplied water from tanks.

Baby Wounded by Rubber Bullet

TA3005142288 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 30 May 88

[Text] A 9-month-old baby was injured in one eye by a rubber bullet at the Jabalyah refugee camp in the Gaza Strip this morning. The rubber bullet was fired during the dispersal of a demonstration. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that the baby was rushed to a hospital in Gaza, and from there to the Barzilay medical center in Ashqelon. Physicians there diagnosed a serious injury to her left eye, as well as a fracture in her right hand. The

IDF spokesman's representative announced that a demonstration was indeed dispersed in Jabalyah this morning, and the IDF soldiers used rubber bullets. Arab sources report that a 28-year-old woman was wounded by a gunshot. The IDF is investigating.

Gaza Baby Loses Left Eye

TA3105053088 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 31 May 88

[Text] An IDF investigation has determined that the mother and infant wounded in the Jabalyah refugee camp yesterday were hit by rubber bullets while the woman was at the scene of a demonstration. The woman was running with the baby in her arms toward her brother, who was participating in the stone throwing incident. This is reported by the IDF spokesman in the Gaza Strip. The 9-month-old baby lost its left eye.

More Schools Reopen 29 May

TA2905103488 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1000 GMT 29 May 88

[Text] More schools reopened in the territories this morning. There were few incidents as some 70,000 pupils between the ages of 11 and 15 returned to their desks. In one instance, however, masked men in Janin tried to get pupils out for a demonstration, but after what was only a brief disruption, classes resumed.

The head of the Civil Administration in the territories, Major General Shay Erez, says as a gesture of goodwill, the administration is considering releasing pupils in detention on condition that they undertake to refrain from further violence.

Full Commercial Strike 30 May

TA3005081388 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 30 May 88

[Text] There is a full commercial strike in Judaea and Samaria today to protest the Moscow summit, in compliance with the call issued by the unified national command of the uprising in pamphlet No 18. Many laborers failed to report to work in Israel, and public transportation in Bethlehem is completely idle. At the same time, our correspondent Arye Gus reports, studies are being held normally and there have been no reports of disruptions or disturbances.

Arabs Sentenced for Stonings

TA2705181388 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 27 May 88

[Text] A Haifa magistrate's court today sentenced four Arab youths from Shefar'am to 6 months in prison after they pleaded guilty to throwing stones at vehicles traveling on the Nazareth-Shefar'am road. The youths were responsible for injuring one traveler and smashing the windscreen of an Egged bus.

Police today questioned a number of Arabs suspected of stoning vehicles on the Tiberias-Nazareth road.

Burial, Beating Charges Probed

TA2905104388 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1000 GMT 29 may 88

[Text] The military police are investigating a charge laid by an Arab resident of the village of Arurah in the Hebron Hills. The villager, Hasan 'Abd al-Rahman Salah, complained about 10 days ago that Israeli soldiers forced him and two youths from the village into a trench and then covered them with stones up to the chest. He says he was also hit with a stone held by one of the soldiers. Our reporter says that an initial investigation did not substantiate the charge, but following the formal complaint by Salah's lawyer, an inquiry has been launched today.

Merchants Admit Defying Army

TA2905105288 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1000 GMT 29 May 88

[Excerpts] At the Jerusalem Magistrate's Court, 14 East Jerusalem shopkeepers today confessed to defying army orders concerning business hours. The confession, which does not amount to a confession of guilt, was part of a deal with the police prosecutor so that he would agree to a second postponement in proceedings. Hearings will resume on 9 June. In the courtroom this morning was reporter Shlomo Berger:

[Begin recording] The shopkeepers are charged with defying two army orders aimed at breaking the East Jerusalem commercial strike. The orders, issued at the end of April, instructed the merchants to remain open at different times than those specified by the intifadha, or uprising, leadership. The merchants first appeared in court on 28 April but were granted a 1-month postponement so their lawyer, Ibrahim Abu Athar, could ask the attorney general to drop proceedings. Today, Abu Athar asked for an additional 3 week's delay because he had not received a reply from Attorney General Harish. Police prosecutor Sha'ul Na'im agreed to a 10-day postponement, provided the shopkeepers would confess to defying army orders. [passage omitted]

Abu Athar said that at the next court session, the merchants would plead not guilty. During the past month, the shopkeepers have again been opening their shops 3 hours a day, as prescribed by PLO communiques. [passage omitted]

The merchants say the present situation is difficult, but they are determined to obey the intifadha, and not the government. [end recording]

Woman Detained for PLO Material

TA3005091988 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 30 May 88

[Excerpt] A 24-year-old advertising agent from Old 'Akko has been detained for possession of PLO propaganda material. Our correspondent Yo'el Dar reports that after a search of her apartment, the police confiscated PLO books and posters, including charts of Haifa and Gaza. The young woman had already been given a 4-month suspended sentence for hostile activity. [passage omitted]

More Violence Feared

TA3005193288 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 30 May 88

[Report by Beni Liss from Nabulus, Qalqilyah and Ramallah]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] There are only rare cases nowadays in which masses are seen throwing stones in the towns. Most of the violent activity is increasingly moving to the villages. Ramallah decided to follow leaflet no 18 which called for a general strike. Everything was closed today, and this was also the case in Qalqilyah. A complete commercial strike was staged, but stoning incidents are the rule in this town. There is also an increase in the throwing of Molotov cocktails here. This was the case this afternoon, and this was the case yesterday and the day before as well.

It is said in the IDF that the uprising [preceding word in Arabic] is going through an interim stage of seeking methods to continue the struggle. At the same time, there is a wave of Molotov cocktail throwings at Israeli vehicles. Two Molotov cocktails were thrown near the village of Jamma'in last night, and today two Molotov cocktails were thrown in Nabulus. A complete commercial strike was also staged today in Nabulus. While we were photographing the main street here, there was a clash between IDF soldiers and demonstrators in the Casbah. The area was declared closed. Local residents claim nine people were hurt in firing, while the IDF spokesman confirmed a single wounded person.

This relative calm, we are told by the IDF, is nothing to rely on. Certain key dates are coming up—such as the Arab summit, 6 June [the 1967 6-Day War], and others—dates on which violence on a larger-scale is feared.

Arabs Admit to Wadi 'Ara Arson

TA3005201088 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 30 May 88

[Text] Two youths, residents of Umm al-Fahm, today admitted in an interrogation by the Valleys subdistrict police that at the beginning of May they set a natural forest on fire. The forest was near the village of Me 'Ammi in the Wadi 'Ara area. They told the interrogators they used gas containers to start the fire.

Photographer's Camera Smashed

TA3005203888 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 30 May 88

[Text] A reservist smashed the camera of the chief photographer of the REUTER agency today. According to the photographer's testimony the soldier also pulled the film out of the camera exposing it to light, and even raised a club at the photographer. An officer then intervened. The incident took place in the village of Bayt Sahur, after the soldier told the photographer to clear the area. According to the REUTER agency, there were no incidents occurring in the village at the time.

An IDF spokeswoman said that an intensive investigation of the incident is under way, and that the soldier has not yet been located. The IDF spokesman today reissued the regulations to soldiers specifying that they should avoid harming journalists and should treat them politely, even if they refuse to obey an authorized order. It is allowed to confiscate photographic material only if there is a reasonable basis to suspect that this material could harm security, or contains evidence regarding an offense.

Reservist Sentenced

TA2805201088 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 28 May 88

[Text] Private Rami Sasoni, who serves in the reserves, was sentenced last Sunday to 4 weeks in prison because he refused to serve in the territories.

The ITIM correspondent reports that 28 soldiers have been given jail sentences for refusing to serve in the territories since the beginning of the unrest there.

Police Raid Islamic Movement Paper AL-SIRAH

TA3005071288 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 30 May 88

[Text] The police have raided the offices of AL-SIRAH, the mouthpiece for the Islamic movement in Umm al-Fahm. Our correspondent Yo'el Dar reports that the police confiscated 30 cassettes and many monthlies, and are reviewing them for inflammatory material.

Head of Arab Journalists Association Released

TA2705172488 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 27 May 88

[Text] Radwan Abu Ayaz, head of the Arab journalists association in the territories, was released today from administrative detention. Our correspondent was told that Abu Ayaz was freed a short time before the completion of his detention as a goodwill gesture by the prime minister and defense minister.

Abu Ayaz told our correspondent Arye Gus that he learned of his pending release last night from the media.

U.S. Mideast Stand at Moscow Summit Faulted

JN2805122188 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 28 May 88 pp 1, 16

[Editorial: "The Moscow Summit and the Middle East Issue"]

[Text] The U.S.-Soviet summit will begin in Moscow tomorrow and will continue until 2 June. The 3-day summit will discuss hot international issues. The United States will try to determine how hot these issues are in light of its interests.

Therefore, it lists the most conspicuous regional issue—the Middle East issue—in the wrong order. However, the Middle East issue has managed to reimpose itself through the Palestinian Arab people's rejection of the Israeli occupation through their valiant popular uprising. This major issue will be discussed deeply maybe for the first time in its 40-year history dominated by Israel and its U.S. ally.

Before the superpower summit, contradictory U.S. statements were made to world capitals and quarters inside and outside the United States. In terms of content or seriousness, these statements still revolve within the Israeli concept although they mention new proposals and timetables. However, these proposals still separate the U.S.-Israeli concept from the international, Arab, and Palestinian concept.

One time they revive the self-rule issue; another time, they propose direct negotiations between the concerned sides. Then they propose the concept of land in exchange for peace in a distorted manner not differing significantly from the Israeli concept which still denies the Palestinian people's rights in their homeland and rejects a just, comprehensive, and total solution to the Palestine issue through a fully authorized international conference.

The superpower summit will discuss a number of issues in an atmosphere of international detente and success in solving some regional issues, as in Afghanistan. Success was also achieved in international issues related to nuclear disarmament and reduction.

The United States will, via the summit, try to make some gains by applying pressure with certain Middle East cards. Hence the timing of Secretary of State George Shultz' move after the summit and before the Arab summit in Algiers.

As for the superpower summit, there appears an Arab stand calling for a fully empowered international peace conference capable of solving all aspects of the Palestine issue so that the Palestinian people attain their national legitimate rights, including self-determination. Therefore, despite the effort by Israel and the United States to halt the Palestinian people's uprising, they will not be able to change the clear international stand supporting peace, headed by the friendly Soviet Union.

The Shultz proposals must positively answer Jordan's queries summing up Arab principles to justify these proposals and give them some seriousness and reasonability. Otherwise, if Shultz' new or old proposals do not address the interests of all parties, including the Palestinian people, they will still revolve in a vicious circle and be unproductive no matter how long they are discussed and regardless of their worn-out new image.

We are optimistic about the superpower summit because we seek a just, durable peace and because our concept of peace stems from a clear and sincere stand enjoying the support of friends and all peace-loving countries which consider the continued 40-year-old Israeli aggression one that destroys peace and prevents a comprehensive settlement.

The Arabs cannot be optimistic about any international meeting, regardless of size, unless it results from their serious political move, closing ranks, and unity of means and objectives. Others will not give us what we cannot take ourselves.

Further Reportage on Amal, Hizballah Clash

Attack on Kan'an Condemned

NC2705095088 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0930 GMT 27 May 88

[Text] Within the context of the suspect campaign being launched by the enemies of Islam to harm the relations between Hizballah and the Syrian leaders, gunmen linked with Israel opened fire at the motorcade of Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an on his return from the house of Ayatollah Sayyid Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah. According to reports, several of Kan'an's bodyguards were slightly injured. A Hizballah delegation visited Brig Gen Kan'an last night and congratulated him on his escape. The delegation condemned the treacherous attempt on the life of Brig Gen Kan'an and other Syrian officers.

Agreement on Syrian Entry

LD2705223288 Tehran IRNA in English 1840 GMT 27 May 88

[Text] Beirut, May 27, IRNA—Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad stressing on Tehran-Damascus strategic ties termed "important" the support for Islamic resistance in southern Lebanon Wednesday.

According to a statement released by a Hizballah official here Thursday night, the Syrian president made the remarks in a three-hour meeting with Hizballah commanders in Latakia Port, where he also reiterated Syria's exploitation of all resources for ending bloodshed between Muslims, and the need for establishment of relations between Hizballah and Amal.

The two sides in the meeting reached the following agreements:

— Entrance of the Syrian troops to the southern Beirut suburbs in order to stabilize the cease-fire and gather armed men from the streets.

— Movement of Syrian troops in certain points, turning of Hizballah and Amal headquarters into political and propagative centers, military presence of the rival groups only on lines between southern and eastern Beirut suburbs, gradual reduction of the Syrian troops in the southern suburbs and their substitution with Lebanon's gendarmerie forces.

— The four-member committee, comprising representatives from Iran, Syria, Hizballah and Amal will supervise implementation of the agreement.

The Hizballah official in his statement once again assured the resistant and Muslim people of Lebanon that Lebanese Muslims allied with Iran will remain active in fighting the Zionist regime for the Islamic cause.

Fadlallah Comments on Plan

NC2805075888 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 28 May 88

[Text] In his Friday sermon Scholar Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah called on everyone to cooperate to ensure the success of the security plan and to find a balanced security policy that can be applied to all and not to one party only, so we can stop the bleeding and think about the future on a new basis.

He affirmed that there is a strategic line and alliance between Syria and Iran to confront imperialism and reaction. He said that he agrees with Syria on the issues it raises, maintaining that the agreement between Presidents Al-Asad and Khamene'i is considered a guarantee.

Sheykh ol-Eslam Comments

NC2805080688 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 28 May 88

[Text] Hoseyn Sheykh ol-Eslam, envoy of the Iranian president and deputy foreign minister, has issued a statement expressing his government's pleasure at the results of the agreement reached between the Iranian and Syrian presidents. Sheykh ol-Eslam expressed the hope that the remaining provisions of the concluded agreement will be implemented and that all obstacles which hamper amity among the brothers will be removed so they can devote themselves to confronting the Zionist enemy in cooperation with all the Muslims in the world.

Amal Called 'Naive'

NC2805082288 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 28 May 88

[Text] Hizballah official spokesman Ibrahim al-Amin has played down the significance of the Syrian entry into the southern suburb. He pointed out that the agreement stipulates that the Syrian deployment aims to separate the warring factions, consolidate the cease-fire, ensure the withdrawal of gunmen, and set up limited observation posts in the areas which had not been scenes of fighting. He added that the Syrian forces will gradually be reduced in number as they are replaced by the internal security forces. The agreement, according to the Hizballah official, further stipulates that the entry will seek to elevate the standard of the quadripartite committee to enable it to discuss the points of dispute, foremost among which is the south. Al-Amin affirmed that the return of Hizballah to the south is inevitable.

During a news conference last night, Ibrahim al-Amin went on to say that the Amal Movement is so naive that it believes we will hand it a writ putting it in charge of security in the south. He added: We categorically reject being citizens in the Amal's state, nor do we accept that the resistance is to be protected by the Islam of Amal. We need no pass from Minister Birri to go to the south.

Ibrahim al-Amin maintained that Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad has told the Hizballah delegation that Hizballah represents the true Islam in Lebanon and the region. Al-Asad added that Hizballah is an indispensible factor in the Lebanese, Arab, and international arenas. Al-Amin added that President al-Asad has given us principled guarantees regarding the continuation of resistance operations in the south.

Alluding to the Amal Movement, the Hizballah official spokesman noted that there are certain forces in Lebanon which have been used as tools to strike at Hizballah. He added: In our Islamic ideology we constitute part of Iran. Our task is to champion the role of Islam. We are neither extremists nor terrorists. They are the enemies and they are the Israelis inside Lebanon.

On Hizballah's position toward the Higher Islamic Shi'ite Council, Ibrahim al-Amin said: We reject this council because it approved the 17 May agreement [signed between Lebanon and Israel in 1983]. We are not a Shi'ite tribe, nor are we a charitable society. We refuse the idea that our decisions should be approved by this council.

Deployment Completed 28 May

NC2805162888 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 28 May 88

[Text] The second phase of the Syrian deployment plan was completed today without any incidents. The Syrian Army has set up permanent roadblocks on streets in the areas that it has entered. As was the case yesterday, Syrian military officials made no statements today.

Reports on the number of troops deployed were conflicting. Some sources put the number at 6,000, but according to other sources the number does not exceed a few hundred. These sources have noted that the Syrians did not bring heavy weapons into the suburb and that the soldiers carried only their personal arms. Tanks and heavy weapons were left in their original positions around the suburb.

The Syrians deployed in two groups. The first, under the command of Brigadier General Hisham al-Mu'alla, took charge of the area between the Al-Ghadir traffic circle and the Al-Sab' gasoline station. The second group, led by 'Ali Dib, took over the area between Al-Ghubayrah and the Al-Sab' gasoline station. Observers, however, have noted that the military offices have been closed down and that there is no sign of the gunmen. Efforts are underway now to determine locations for a political office and an information office for both Amal and Hizballah. It has been learned that the Amal Movement is demanding an office in Burj al-Barajinah and that Hizballah refuses to agree to Amal's request.

Suburb Withdrawal Expected

NC2905055188 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 29 May 88

[Text] Three days after the deployment of Syrian forces into the southern suburb, a new Syrian position has suddenly emerged on two issues. First came the statement: We will withdraw from the suburb in coming days. Next came: There will be no presidential elections in Lebanon if we do not get both sectors of Beirut under a single administration.

Syrian Information Minister Muhammad Salman has announced that the Syrian Army will withdraw from the southern suburb in the next few days, after completion of its mission and removal of gunmen from the streets. He said the Syrian Army will be deployed in eight positions around the suburb, maintain law and order, and intervene when asked to do so by the internal security forces, which will be in charge of security within the suburb.

Salman added that the Syrian entry into the suburb is the second stage, after the entry into West Beirut, aimed toward bringing both sectors of Beirut under a united administration, and that there will be no presidential elections in Lebanon if this aim is not achieved. The Syrian minister stressed that the Syrian Army will not disarm the fighters, but will ban the presence of gunmen in the suburb. He said: Those who want to fight in southern Lebanon can do so. We dealt with Hizballah as a party fighting Israel. We back every party that fights Israel and will bar the presence of any party in Lebanon that deals with Israel.

Salman said that Syria would like to see a Lebanese president who will unite the Lebanese, a central government with decisionmaking authority, a parliament with supreme authority, and, consequently, the elimination of sectarianism.

Regarding the issue of hostages, he said: Our presence in the suburb will facilitate the release of foreign hostages. The restoration of security will aid in locating the places they are being held. But, he added, Syria has no timetable for the release of the hostages because this issue is not in our hands. He stressed that Damascus will continue its efforts to secure the release of all hostages and noted that those detaining them do not belong to political organizations, thus creating difficulties in locating the site of their detention. He added that the search for places of detention requires effort, and Syria looks on the issue of the hostages as a humanitarian one.

Withdrawal Plans Questioned

NC2905173488 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 29 May 88

[Text] Interior Minister Dr 'Abdallah al-Rasi told AFP today that he has not been notified concerning yesterday's announced decision by Syria to withdraw its forces from the southern suburb of Beirut where they deployed this weekend.

Dr al-Rasi said: We are not aware that Damascus intends to withdraw its forces. He noted that he has had contacts with the parties concerned to clarify matters.

Syrian Information Minister Muhammad Salman declared last night that the troop withdrawal will take place in the coming days after the Syrian forces have completed their task and the battles between Amal and Hizballah are ended. He added that the internal security forces will then ensure security in the suburb.

Meanwhile, Interior Minister al-Rasi has noted that the Lebanese Army's 6th Brigade will deploy along the contact lines in the southern suburb. He expressed hope that the Lebanese Army will also take over the contact line on the other side, which is under the control of the Lebanese forces.

Amal Admits 'Tremendous' Loss

NC2905181388 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 29 May 88

[Text] 'Akif Haydar, deputy leader of the Amal Movement, has admitted that the movement has suffered tremendous military losses in the suburb war. But, he added, this war does not represent a victory for Hizballah. Haydar noted that losing their positions was a big blow to the Movement, which may perhaps turn out for the better in the long run. Haydar pointed out that the reasons are clear why the Movement did not fight, but withdrew when Hizballah was fully prepared for the war. He said: However, we will one day regain the suburb, either through security measures or through accords.

Syria's Entry Praised

JN2905202288 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 29 May 88

[Interview with Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah, spiritual leader of the Lebanese Hizballah Party, by an unidentified Syrian television reporter in Beirut's southern suburb—date not given; recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] What is your opinion about the extension of the security plan to the suburb and the entry of the Syrian Arab forces to end the regrettable fratricide?

[Fadlallah] We have stated right from the beginning that we are integrated with Al-Asad's Syria in the strategic positions against Zionism as a future danger; against world arrogance, headed by the disguised American colonialism; against home injustice from which we are still suffering in Lebanon; and against Arab reaction in the region. Because we think that President al-Asad has a grand strategy and a wide view covering the whole arena, we believe that all those working for freedom in Lebanon must integrate with President al-Asad in the work for freedom on all levels.

It is natural that bloody, reckless, and mad fratricide destroys many things when it directs bleeding to the interior instead of the exterior. Colonialist groups, and perhaps some reactionary Arab and local organs, have cooperated to create an atmosphere that allows for the continuation of fighting in the primitive manner rooted in the Lebanese materialistic political culture which makes instincts dominate the mind. We learned from the objective circumstances in the arena that this fighting could not end without the help of the Syrian brothers by means of the guarantees President al-Asad, who enjoys the confidence of all, gave to dispel the fears one party had of the other. These fears used to govern the battle. Hence, we noted that the implementation of the security plan in the suburb was not opposed by anybody, but was welcomed with the cooperation of all.

We hope that this security plan will be entrenched. We are confident that security will be for all and not for one party to the exclusion of others, as was falsely reported for political consumption in Lebanon. We believe that in such issues Al-Asad's Syria is moving according to a strategy and not according to tactics.

[Reporter] Yes. Then, there is no doubt that you believe that ending fratricide will contribute to unifying the fighting rifles in order to confront the Zionist enemy?

[Fadlallah] We believe that ending fratricide will return all fighters to their senses and make them understand that neither party poses a danger to the other, and that the danger comes from Israel. What is the value of winning an office by this or that party while all offices remain in the arena that is controlled by Israel? During these incidents we heard President al-Asad emphasize that resistance in the south, be it Islamic or national, should continue so that the jihad against Israel will continue in order to rob Israel of any success in its direct or indirect plans through the agent Lahd army. We hope that Al-Asad's Syria and all the national and Islamic forces will help bring the fighting parties to the negotiating table, in order to discuss their differences so that they can discover that their points of agreement are greater than their points of disagreement and that the issue of Israel should unify all because it poses danger to all the Lebanese, Arab, and Islamic entity. The Israeli strategy wants to turn Israel into the second colonialist power in the region in alliance with all world colonialist factions. Therefore, we should be united in the face of Israel and freeze all differences. Once we triumph over it, it would not be a problem if we differed afterward, but disagreement, especially that which leads to fratricide, is prohibited in all of its manifestations.

Syrian Forces To Remain

NC2905211988 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 2045 GMT 29 May 88

[Text] Syrian Information Minister Muhammad Salman said tonight that the Syrian forces will stay in the southern suburb to maintain security and stability there.

Concerning his statement yesterday that the Syrian forces will withdraw from the suburb, Salman said that he did not mean the complete withdrawal of all the Syrian forces, because a Syrian force should stay in order to guarantee security and stability in the suburb. He asserted that the withdrawal of all of the Syrian forces will only take place when the situation no longer warrants their deployment in the suburb.

Hizballah Plans Return

NC3005062888 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 30 May 88

[Text] The AKHBAR LUBNAN NEWS AGENCY, which is close to the Higher Islamic Shi'ite Council, reported yesterday that some kidnappings had taken place in some of the suburb's streets. Citing the Amal Movement, the agency added that some Hizballah gunmen are walking around with their weapons and setting up roadblocks in the Bi'r al-'Abd area, where they check the identity cards of passers-by.

In another development, Hizballah official 'Abbas al-Musawi, in an address to Hizballah gunmen yesterday, said: Let all of you know that your weapons will remain in the suburb and that we will return in full force.

Militia 'Hegemony' End Sought

NC3005130088 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 30 May 88

[Text] Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam has been cited as saying that Syria is determined to see democratic presidential elections take place in a Lebanese capital which is administratively unified and completely free from the hegemony of the militias.

Minister Al-Rasi Discusses Syrian Deployment

JN3005201988 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1805 GMT 30 May 88

[Interview with Interior Minister Dr 'Abdallah al-Rasi by unidentified Damascus television reporter in Beirut; date not given — recorded]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [Reporter] Your Excellency the Minister, the regrettable security incidents which have occurred in the suburb, and formerly in Beirut and in many Lebanese areas, has proven the talk about self-security or the security of the militias. What the Syrian Arab forces have so far achieved in the suburb gives much cause for optimism to Lebanese officials and citizens, whether on the level of administrative Beirut, greater Beirut, or the general national plan in Lebanon—a plan which resists Israeli occupation. What are your wishes in this regard?

[Al-Rasi] To begin with, I am one of those who says that the solution in Lebanon is to dissolve all the militias so that the regular forces can replace them. Only these legitimate regular forces can entrench real security on Lebanese territory. In fact, and out of our experience in West Beirut, I am of the opinion that the plan should first be extended to the area of administrative Beirut, then to greater Beirut, and then to the rest of Lebanon. Here, I would like to reply to some people who ask how security can be entrenched in East Beirut. The Syrian forces enter some areas only at the request of Lebanese officials. Hence, the Syrian forces are not required to enter into East Beirut. There is a Lebanese Army along with Lebanese security forces which can implement this plan in West [as heard] Beirut. Since the Syrian Army present on Lebanese territory is a legitimate army, then there can be coordination and harmony between the army present there and the army present here—the Lebanese Army is present there—regarding control of the contact lines and their removal later, especially since we are on the threshold of very important constitutional elections. These elections should take place in a calm atmosphere without any pressures.

We daily hear of some militias in East Beirut intefering in this matter, although they have nothing to do with it. This matter is related to the Chamber of Deputies, particularly the deputies themselves. Therefore, the deputies should willingly and freely take part in the elections when the constitutional date of elections comes. Thus, the first step I wish now is that the Lebanese Army, along with the Lebanese security forces, maintain security in East Beirut.

[Reporter] Your Excellency, can these forces benefit from the extension of the security plan of the Syrian Arab forces to the southern suburb?

[Al-Rasi] This is a lifetime opportunity for them to implement legitimate security in the areas we are talking about. The step taken in the suburb is a very important phase among the phases we are experiencing to entrench security and to restore both legitimacy and a strong central government to Lebanon.

Birri Comments on Southern Suburb, Syria's Role

JN3005195888 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1815 GMT 30 May 88

[Interview with Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri by an unidentified Syrian television reporter in Beirut — date not given; recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] Minister Nabih Birri, leader of the Amal Movement: The entry of the Syrian Arab forces into the suburb is part of the security plan in Beirut. How do you assess this step and how do you view the future accord in Lebanon in light of this step?

[Birri] The Syrian Arab forces entered West Beirut in February 1987. At the time, I said that the entry restored unity among the nationalists, restored unity among the Muslims, and restored unity among the Lebanese. Now, the entry into the southern suburb has restored unity of the resistance against Israel and has also restored unity to

the suburb, the source of resistance from which the 6 February uprising, the first vanguards of resistance in the south, and the 17 May resistance emerged to confront the multinational and NATO forces. The entry has restored the brightness of the suburb. It also restored the vitality of the national action, which was about to fade away. I believe that the conspiracy this time against Lebanon's unity, through the prepared attack against the south—an attack which was foiled by the Amal Movement there and which has moved to the southern suburb—is not less important than the conspiracy of February 1987. The Syrian Arab entry is the beginning of Lebanon's unity and the basic step toward achieving a Lebanese national accord, especially since we are about to start the presidential elections. You know that we proposed accord in Lebanon to be the only candidate for the Presidency, because changing people means nothing if such a change is not preceded by a real accord. If the presidential elections are preceded by an accord among the Lebanese, any person who believes in Lebanon's unity and Arabism and in fighting against Israel can assume the post of president.

[Reporter] Do you mean that he will be the president of all factions?

[Birri] Yes. And if there is no accord, any such change will not work at all. If we keep the sectarian system in Lebanon, we will entrench the Israeli presence in Lebanon. Therefore, this system should be replaced and accord should be achieved. Within this framework, there is a positive statement made by the Syrian information minister yesterday that the presidential elections should be preceded by an accord among the Lebanese.

[Reporter] Mr Nabih, the entry of the Syrian Arab forces has restored security. How do you view this entry in light of the security situation in administrative Beirut or greater Beirut?

[Birri] In fact, the militias harmed security. In the name of security, they used to hurt security. Without the entry of the Syrian forces into West Beirut and the southern suburb, there would be no national action or unity even in Beirut, the capital. Such a step should also be taken toward East Beirut, which is dominated by militias still connected with the Israeli enemy. No one should believe there is any comfort in East Beirut. The elections should also be preceded by a security accord in addition to political, social, and economic accord. This should be preceded by a security accord, which should establish greater Beirut or administrative Beirut. In other words, there should be a legitimate Lebanese authority supported by the only qualified authority, the legitimate Syrian authority and the Syrian Army, so that we can conduct a free presidential election preceded by a Lebanese accord.,

[Reporter] The incidents in the suburb and before them the incidents in Beirut have confirmed the failure of the rule of the militias or self-rule. Can the step that has taken place in the suburb end the same state of affairs in East Beirut?

[Birri] It must be an encouraging factor which cannot be substituted. There are explosions and casualties in East Beirut every day. But, no one hears about these incidents. There is a news blackout with respect to East Beirut. But the truth is that the situation there is worse than the state of affairs that prevailed in the suburb, and far worse than the state of affairs that used to prevail in West Beirut before March 1987. The people there are anxious to be saved from this state of affairs.

[Reporter] Who or what force could carry out their wish?

[Birri] The same force which is in West Beirut. In my opinion, it can assume the same role in East Beirut. Why should there be a difference between West and East Beirut? The legitimate Lebanese forces, supported by the Syrian Arab Army should carry this out. There is no other choice. What country can help in Lebanon? There are no longer any embassies in Lebanon. Ambassadors cannot stay in Lebanon in light of the present situation. Therefore, any Arab and non-Arab army which agrees to sacrifice for Lebanon must carry out this role. Experience has shown that fraternal neighbor Syria, Hafiz al-Asad's Syria, protects Lebanon's unity, sovereignty, and independence. Those who were apprehensive over Lebanon's independence and were afraid that Syria would harm Lebanon's sovereignty, and tried to forget the existence of Israel—as they are its agents—must understand more and more that Syria protects Lebanon's sovereignty and independence from its enemies and friends. Events in the southern suburb show that the target was Lebanon's independence, sovereignty, and unity. Lebanon's unity had never been endangered as it has been during the suburb incidents. Syria supported the suburb and through this support it supported Lebanon's unity. We tell those who are apprehensive of Syria not to be afraid or pained. Al-Asad's Syria has demonstrated on every occasion, particularly on this occasion, that it has an appointment with you, the appointment to achieve Lebanon's unity, through a real unity among the Lebanese that will be crowned with presidential elections. Thus, the Syrian Arab Army will help restore security step-by-step, as well as authority to the legitimate Lebaense national authorities.

[Reporter] Ending the tragic state of affairs in the suburb and halting the fighting among the brothers and the sons of the same rank should be the sound platform for uniting the guns in the direction of the Israeli enemy. What do you have to say about the suburb now?

[Birri] In reality now...

[Reporter, interrupting] What is needed now?

[Birri] I believe that the suburb is now mending its garment, which has been torn. It tries to find its way to the south toward the resistance, and toward supporting our people in the south so that they may be able to score a certain victory, God willing.

[Reporter] We hope so, and we thank you.

1 Injured in Explosion Near Birri's House

NC3005203188 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 30 May 88

[Text] An explosive charge went off this evening near Minister Nabih Birri's house in Barbur. The explosion took place in the Yasin building, which contains an ammunition depot. One person was injured.

Fadlallah Calls for 'Solving' Hostages Problem

NC2805185988 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in English 1815 GMT 28 May 88

[Text] Spiritual adviser of Hizballah Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah confirmed that he called all concerned parties to close the file of the foreign hostages held in Lebanon. In a talk to the France International Radio, Fadlallah expressed belief that the issue of the hostages has taken a complicated political turn and is no longer within the Lebanese framework. He stressed that he wishes for the hostages to return to their families and live their normal life for the sake of humanity, and called for solving this problem in a practical way away from all publicity.

Now on the Syrian level, it seems that until now Syria has avoided to startle Hizballah so that it did not expose its muscles in its entry to the suburb. Sources revealed that there is a Syrian-Iranian agreement not to make any military operations to release the hostages.

Information to the Voice of Lebanon says that the Syrians have avoided entering the area of Bi'r al-'Abd, where the most important barracks for Hizballah lies and where a big sign is posted: Iranian Zone.

Release of 4 Hostages Reported Possible

NC3105123288 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 30 May 88 p 9

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Syrian Defense Minister General Mustafa Talas told Austrian journalists in Damascus: "If the hostages are found they will be released, forcibly if necessary, by the Syrian forces."

The Austrian news agency cited Talas as saying that the hostages were moved when the Syrians entered the suburb.

Talas expressed his belief that France had found a "good way" to secure the release of its hostages. He advised the other states concerned to follow suit.

Talas' statement came after sources in the eastern area last night reiterated information to the effect that four foreign hostages might be released soon.

The sources, which are close to the regime, did not want to go into details or speak of possible dates. However, they said that the hostages to be released are very likely the four professors who were kidnapped from Beirut University.

Scholar Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah has urged all parties concerned to close the dossier of foreign hostages. He told "France International" Radio monitored in Nicosia (AFP) [as published] that he believes that the issue of the hostages has assumed a complicated political dimension, and that it is now outside the Lebanese framework.

Fadlallah said that he wholeheartedly hopes that the hostages will return to their families and lead a normal life "because I reject this issue for humanitarian and propagandist reasons." He expressed his belief that Lebanon will not become an Islamic republic in the foreseeable future because not all the Muslims want this and the Christians reject it. [passage omitted]

Anglican Hostage Terry Waite Reported Alive

JN3005132088 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1208 GMT 30 May 88

[Text] In today's issue, the newspaper AL-SAFIR says the four American University [of Beirut] professors, three Americans and one Indian national, who were kidnapped in West Beirut 16 months ago, will be released soon. The paper attributes its report to sources close to the Lebanese Government.

On the other hand, Dr Razah Ra'd, a French doctor of Lebanese origin, has asserted that the Anglican envoy Terry Waite, who was kidnapped in Beirut on 20 January 1987, is alive and that the British Government should initiate direct negotiations with Iran to secure his release. Earlier, Dr Razah Ra'd had mediated several times between the French Government and captors of hostages in Lebanon to release former French hostages in Beirut.

Palestinian Official Injured by Car Bomb

NC2805112588 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 28 May 88

[Text] 'Ali Abu al-Jamus, an official in the Al-Sa'iqah organization, was seriously injured when a bomb exploded in his car in front of the organization's ofice in the 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp this morning.

Car Bomb in East Beirut Kills 15, Injures 59

NC3005104188 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 30 May 88

[Excerpts] According to a preliminary report, 10 persons were killed and 59 others wounded in the explosion of a booby-trapped car in the Rumayl area, near Al-Rum Hospital, in Al-Ashrafiyah at 1030 today. The blast extensively damaged 20 cars, and burned 3 buildings and damaged 8 others.

The military sapper estimated that the explosive device weighed 70 kg of TNT. The device was placed in a blue Volvo 244, with the chasis number 1,000,160. The explosion made a hole in the ground 60 cm deep and 2 meters in diameter.

Military sapper Lieutenant Colonel Zaydan told our radio that the car was parked at the scene of the incident 10 minutes before the blast. Eyewitnesses in the area saw a young man rushing out of the car only minutes before the device went off. [passage omitted]

According to a news flash from the news desk, the explosion of the booby-trapped car in the Al-Rumayl area left 15 dead, according to preliminary reports. Ten mutilated bodies have been taken to Al-Rum Hospital. Security authorities said that other bodies have been taken to the Hotel Dieu, Abu Jawdah, and Al-Ju'aytawi Hospitals. [passage omitted]

Fatah Dissidents Said To Bring in Reinforcements
NC2805054388 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 28 May 88

[Text] Fierce fighting raged between 'Arafat's supporters and opponents in Burj al-Barajinah from 2100 to 2300 last night. The dissident artillery emplacements on the mountain and in Sports City were involved in the bombardment of pro-'Arafat positions. A spokesman for 'Arafat's Fatah has accused the dissidents of bringing reinforcements to the outskirts of Burj al-Barajinah and Shatila, despite an agreement finalized by seven Palestinian organizations.

Israelis, SLA Withdraw From Al-Luwayzah
NC2605160488 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 26 May 88

[Excerpt] The joint Israeli-South Lebanese Army [SLA] operation which has been carried out in the Iqlim al-Tuffah and Al-Nabatiyah area since yesterday morning actually ended before noon today. SLA troops have completed their withdrawal from the Al-Luwayzah area, having destroyed fundamentalist strongholds there. [passage omitted]

[Paris AFP in English at 1538 GMT cites a Shi'ite spokesman in Beirut as saying that "Some 300 Israeli and SLA forces were driven back into the buffer zone along the Israeli-Lebanese border after violent battles with fighters of the Islamic Resistance, Hizballah's military wing"]

Resistance Group Reports Attack on 'Enemy' Patrol
NC2905205788 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 29 May 88

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] A National Resistance Front group has attacked an enemy patrol in the Al-Qulay'ah Tall al-Nahas area deep inside the occupied strip and only meters from the international borders with occupied Palestine. The group fought a heroic battle with the enemy forces and their agents, during which it annihilated an enemy patrol, thus adding a new battle to the heroic confrontation which our people are waging in the occupied strip.

The enemy then rushed additional forces to the battlefield and used helicopters to comb the area. The combing operation continued until this afternoon. Meanwhile, other enemy forces stormed the towns of Al-Qulay'ah and (Burj al-Muluk) and arrested many persons after ransacking the houses there.

The enemy admitted, through its press, that a Lahd militiaman was killed and another wounded. [passage omitted]

Fadlallah Discusses Suburb Fighting, Syrian Move
PM3005144388 Barcelona LA VANGUARDIA in Spanish 21 May 88 p 9

[Interview with Shi'ite leader Shaykh Fadlallah by Tomas Alcoverro in Beirut; date not given]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [Alcoverro] Your Eminence—this is presumably the title most appropriate to your religious rank—how is it possible that nobody in Lebanon—neither the politicians, nor the "warlords," nor the leaders of the militias—is concerned about the suffering which these people have endured for 13 years and which leaves everybody so indifferent?

[Fadlallah] It is the war, the Lebanese domestic situation, which creates this injustice. The people, the armed organizations, are trapped in violence, and fighting breaks out despite everybody. What is happening among us is a copy, a reflection, of the struggles embarked on by states among themselves. States, like militias, do not take people's suffering into account when they start their battles. Even in Lebanon, when we approach one of its leaders, they admit to us that they can do nothing to prevent it....

[Alcoverro] Why is this fighting between two militia organizations belonging to the same community, the Shi'ite community, so cruel? There is already talk of 250 dead and over 1,000 wounded since the fighting began 6 May. Why is this fighting between Shi'ites more bitter than that which has been or is between the various confessional communities?

[Fadlallah] As you know, there is often a Hizballah supporter and an Amal supporter in the same family. The smaller the area, the more brutal the violence becomes. But, it must not be forgotten that the same violence has also torn apart the other communities, such as the Maronite Christians when the Liberal Party's militiamen confronted the Phalangists a few years ago.... It is violence which stems from the Lebanese mentality,

from intolerance. People refuse to accept the other group, the opposing faction. What is happening now in the suburbs is, unfortunately, typical of the local situation.

[Alcoverro] Hizballah had won considerable support among the Shi'ite population because of its religious ideology, its social work, and its welfare assistance, but this fighting has enraged many of its supporters....

[Fadlallah] It is a war of self-defense. They were trying to oust us from this area. But we are a party, not a militia. We do not abduct people or organize mobile patrols. Our military action is the fight against Israel. The problem of the Beirut suburbs has arisen now because regional and international circumstances aimed at crushing the Islamic movement have been created. In any event, the Lebanese, as traders, have short memories and will soon forget. Despite everything, a reconciliation between Hizballah and Amal is still possible.

[Alcoverro] Do you believe that one of the factors hindering the resolution of this bloody conflict is the Western hostages' presence in these suburbs?

Fadlallah, with his close-fitting black turban, worn only by the senior Shi'ite clergy; his black cloak; and his well-manicured hands, scarcely answered my question.

[Fadlallah] I have no information to comment on this matter.

However, Hizballah and Islamic Jihad, which is regarded as its subversive action wing—as Black September was for Yasir 'Arafat's Al-Fatah—are the Shi'ite fundamentalist groups which are connected with the abduction of Western citizens in Lebanon. From time to time this man, who likes to talk about Muslim and Christian humanism and who alludes to the Muslim religion's world view and civil political thinking, stares at the portrait of Imam Khomeyni hanging on the opposite wall.

[Alcoverro] Do you believe that the Syrian troops, which have been stationed with their tanks and weapons for 6 days on the outskirts, will enter the suburbs? Do you believe that their presence will be a threat to Hizbollah?

[Fadlallah] For the safety of the population we have agreed to the Syrians entering the suburbs. The likelihood of their troops deploying is very great. However, it is still to be decided in what way, how, and with what safeguards they will be deployed. Hizballah has coexisted with the Syrian troops in Al-Biqa. The Syrian Army helps us in our fight against Israel. But I cannot deny that right now there is a certain feeling of apprehension among our people....

[Alcoverro] Will the Syrian entry be made peacefully or could it provoke violent incidents?

[Fadlallah] There is no decision by any party to resist the entry of the Syrians. Lebanon is a proving ground for all the political powers in the world. Foreign influences are so great that there is no local force which is independent. As for this country's inhabitants, they are the guinea pigs, the scapegoats, of international politics.

Troops Ready To Use Force To Free Hostages
AU2905181588 Vienna ORF Teletext in German 1755 GMT 29 May 88

[Text] Damascus—If the Syrian troops currently located in the Beirut suburbs determine where the European and American hostages are being held, they will be freed, by force if necessary.

Syrian Defense Minister Mustafa Talas stated this to Austrian journalists. Talas said, however, that he could not exclude the possibility that the hostage-takers had moved their victims to other locations.

Salman on Beirut Deployment, Hostage Release
JN2905074388 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500 GMT 29 May 88

[Louis Faris dispatch from Damascus]

[Text] Syrian Information Minister Muhammad Salman has said there will be no presidential elections in Lebanon unless an administrative Beirut exists. He declared the Syrian Army will withdraw from Beirut's southern suburb in a few days once weapons are withdrawn and the Lebanese security forces assume responsibility for security. He declared that Syria will continue its efforts to bring about the release of the hostages of all nationalities.

Salman said verbatim:

The Syrian decision to enter the southern suburb was in response to the request of the inhabitants of the southern suburb and the political and popular leaders. It was a confirmation and fulfillment of the promises made by President Hafiz al-Asad who, once he makes a decision, is committed to its implementation whatever the difficulties and sacrifices. He added: There was a period of time between the date the decision was made and the actual implementation. We hoped that period would make it possible to enter the southern suburb without exacerbating the catastrophe and to spare the Lebanese people the loss of lives that might have occurred if entry into the suburb had taken place in the way the enemies of Lebanon and the Lebanese people had expected. They had expected entry to be by force so that there will be feuding and fighting among the Lebanese who are defending Lebanon against the Israeli enemy.

Syria, which had entered Lebanon in 1976 to end the fratricide among the Lebanese people, entered for the sake of all the Lebanese and not in order to support and strengthen one side or sect at the expense of another. When Syria first entered Lebanon it saved the Christians in Lebanon from an inevitable massacre. That is because we view Lebanon from a pan-Arab not a narrow regional, sectarian, or geograpghic perspective. The entry into the southern suburb is the second step following the entry into Beirut in order to bring about an administrative Beirut so that Lebanon will recover.

The Syrian minister added verbatim: Lebanon cannot be united, the Lebanese people cannot choose their ruler, nor can there be a central authority in Lebanon as long as such divisions exist. That means that anyone who tries to deepen divisions in Beirut must be removed from the arena.

Asked if Syria expects this to be achieved prior to the Lebanese presidential elections, Salman said: If we do not achieve it before the Lebanese elections there will be no presidential elections in Lebanon.

Asked about the next steps to be made in Beirut's southern suburb, the Syrian minister said: Fighting has halted. Weapons will be withdrawn from all sides except those on the contact lines with East Beirut, and the Lebanese internal security forces will have direct responsibility for maintaining order in the southern suburb. The Syrian forces will withdraw in a few days so that the Lebanese authorities will make the decisions on maintaining security. We look forward to seeing Lebanon and the Lebanese people united under the leadership of a president for all the Lebanese, a central government that has the authority to make decisions, and a parliament that wields the highest authority, and consequently we look forward to the abolition of sectarianism in Lebanon.

Referring to Hizballah, the Syrian information minister said: Syria dealt with Hizballah as a force that fights Israel with which we are in a state of war. We are bound to support any force that fights Israel, and we are bound to fight any force in the Lebanese arena that coordinates with or is friendly with Israel. However, when Lebanon has a unified central leadership there will be definitely no force, neither in East nor in West Beirut, other than that intended to safeguard Lebanon and to maintain its Arab affiliation as an Arab state.

Asked about the hostages, Salman said: Syria will continue its efforts to bring about their release regardless of their nationalities. We hope that through dialogue and political action and with the cooperation of friends we will be able to bring about their release.

Minister Salman said the Syrian forces which will withdraw from the southern suburb in a few days are to remain stationed at eight points on the approaches to the southern suburb and will be ready to intervene when necessary or when the Lebanese security forces ask them to do so.

In answer to a question, he said Syria does not encourage only Hizballah to fight Israel but also encourages all the parties in Lebanon. Therefore, all will be allowed to carry arms in southern Lebanon to defend Lebanon, particularly in the face of the recurring Israeli raids and attacks. With regard to Beirut's southern suburb, no arms manifestations will be allowed, and only those on the contact lines with East Beirut will be allowed to carry arms.

In answer to a question on accusations by Mr Yasir 'Arafat that Syria is responsible for the artillery bombardment of a Beirut refugee camp, the Syrian information minister said: Always, whenever he gets annoyed, 'Arafat has nothing to say other than to level charges against Syria. The fighting in the camps is between the Palestinian factions, and Syria does not need and will not need to shell the camps. He added: The Palestinian organizations in Lebanon are not there to interfere in Lebanon's internal affairs.

Asked if that will affect relations between Syria and the PLO, Salman said: When it opened its doors to the PLO leaders, Syria sought to support the uprising in the occupied territory so as to bring about an effective international conference attended by the states concerned and particularly the PLO as part of a unified Arab delegation so that the uprising will not weaken. We have a great hope that the PLO leaders will not waste the efforts of those carrying out the uprising and render such efforts fruitless.

The Syrian information minister did not rule out the possibility that Syria will intervene to stop the fighting in the Palestinian camps if asked to do so by the inhabitants of the camps. He warned: We will not delay in adopting the measures that will ensure an end to Palestinian infighting.

Media View Deployment in Beirut Southern Suburb

'Restored Tranquillity'

JN2805072688 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 28 May 88

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Syria's Salvation Role," AL-THAWRAH says: It has been asserted daily that Syria's salvation role in Lebanon constitutes a guarantor to assist the Lebanese brothers to emerge from the whirlpool of crisis and fighting, to spread the umbrella of security, calm, and stability, and to unite efforts to confront the Zionist enemy and its agents. These main characteristics of the Syrian role emerge anew through the national solution of the crisis in the southern suburb.

The entry and deployment of the Syrian forces have put a limit to the confusion, fighting, and destruction and have restored tranquillity to the Lebanese citizens after the destruction, fear, and anxiety that had prevailed in the suburb.

The Lebanese citizens in the suburb and in Lebanon expressed their heartfelt welcome of the Syrian forces because they realize, in light of their tribulation, that wherever the Syrian forces are present, security, tranquillity, and stability prevail, fear and anxiety disappear, and citizens go about their business. The Lebanese can then devote their efforts to the basic issues, particularly mobilizing all national efforts to liberate southern Lebanon from Israeli occupation.

AL-THAWRAH adds: All developments in Lebanon have proven that Syria's salvation role has been the decisive factor in achieving a number of important, positive situations for the Lebanese people. Foremost of these are the entrenching of security and stability, creating the suitable atmosphere for dialogue to reach national reconciliation, and aborting the schemes which the Zionist enemy and its agents are trying to peddle to destroy Lebanon and to again spread an atmosphere of confusion and killing.

These achievements, realized by all the Lebanese, stem from Syria's commitment to its pan-Arab role despite the sacrifices and burdens which it bears to assume its tasks. Syria offers assistance to fraternal Lebanon and its people due to the fraternal relations, the common destiny of the one people in the two countries, and from the need to help the Lebanese people to preserve Lebanon's unity—territory and people—to put an end to its people's tribulation and to make available the necessary requirements to liberate its land from Israeli occupation.

AL-THAWRAH says: The Syrian forces' deployment into the southern suburb to restore security, tranquillity, and stability amid great popular welcome is evidence that Syria is determined to offer every possible assistance to prevent the fighting and destruction, to end it, and to achieve peace and calm for all Lebanese. The Lebanese citizens are unanimous that wherever Syrian forces are present stability is entrenched, calm prevails, and the appropriate atmosphere for dialogue and reconciliation is created.

Radio on 'Security Plan'

JN2805131388 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 28 May 88

[Station commentary]

[Text] Ladies and gentlemen, as of yesterday, Friday, the Syrian Arab forces in Beirut began to implement the security plan in Beirut's southern suburb. Over the past few days this suburb witnessed a flood of the citizens' blood as well as the destruction of security and the mad, meaningless killing of fighters who had earlier devoted their lives to their homeland and dedicated their blood for the liberation of the homeland from Israeli occupation.

The fraternal and enthusiastic reception accorded to the Syrian forces in the suburb areas they entered stand witness to the wantonness of the grave and irresponsible acts committed in this suburb. These acts poured water in the mills of all types of enemies and, consequently, benefited neither the Lebanese citizen nor his cause or that of resistance against Israeli occupation.

The Lebanese brothers in the suburb were waiting to be saved from hell, and from the reciprocal suicidal self-destruction of brothers, by the Syrian Arab forces after appeals, calls for help, mediations, and reason had failed to stop the bloodbath and end the fratricide which were denounced and condemned by all official and popular Lebanese circles and by religious, political, and cultural institutions. The Syrian Arab forces—the army of pan-Arab leader President Hafiz al-Asad—responded to the calls for help and salvation received by the leader of pan-Arab struggle. These forces did so out of a humanitarian, brotherly, national, and pan-Arab consideration.

Those who listened to the president or read his speech at the Iftar banquet he hosted for the ulema at the end of the blessed month of Ramadan should have absorbed the meanings contained in it, foremost being the fact Syria is defending both Lebanon and Syria in Lebanon and that Syria sacrificed and is sacrificing for fraternal Lebanon for the sake of helping the Lebanese brothers embark on national reconciliation and on the liberation of the Lebanese territories occupied by Israel and the agents.

He who thought Syria would remain idle toward the development of the situation in the suburb into one eventually serving only the interests of Israel, the imperialists, and all those who want to preoccupy the Arabs in matters that turn them away from struggle against Israel and imperialism and their plans against both Arabs and Muslims, is mistaken.

Syria, which helped the Lebanese brothers to topple the 17 May agreement and to launch a valiant, selfless, and victorious resistance battle against the Israeli occupiers in southern Lebanon, can under no circumstance or slogan whatsoever accept the emergence of a state of affairs that serves Israel rather than Lebanon, that benefits the enemies of Lebanon rather than the Arabs, that distracts the attention of forces from resisting Israel, and that pushes these forces to suicidal battles against one another.

Syria is with Lebanon and Syria's decision is to help the Lebanese brothers overcome the current abnormal situation in Lebanon and tread the road of national reconciliation that preserves Lebanon's unity, Arab identity, fraternal relations with Syria, and its ability to liberate its territory from the Israeli occupation and prevents partition, fragmentation and ministates. Syria has always extended this help and it is committed to it because it stems from the principles in which Syria believes, from the unbreakable fraternal relations between Syria and Lebanon, and from its pan-Arab commitment to the Arab nation's cause.

Syria does not differentiate between one Lebanese faction and another nor does it side with one Lebanese against another except inasmuch as each side adheres to Lebanon's national interests, its national affiliation, and its struggle against Israel. Every Lebanese who cares for his country's unity, Arab affiliation, Arab role, and the option of struggle against Israel is a friend of Syria whom Syria will not abandon.

Struggle against Israel and the Israeli option in Lebanon is the basis on which Syria meets with the Lebanese forces. No wonder then if the advocates of the Israeli option in Lebanon attack the Syrian salvation operation in the suburb. What Syria did was a new blow dealt to Israel's dreams and plans in Lebanon because the continuation of fratricide and bloodbaths in the suburb served Israel and the enemies of Lebanon's national unity.

AL-BA'TH: 'Important Step'

JN2905065788 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 29 May 88

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Our Forces' Deployment in the Suburb Is an Important Step on the Road to Salvation," AL-BA'TH says: Amid a popular and official welcome, our valiant forces, in cooperation with the Lebanese internal forces, have completed their deployment in Beirut's southern suburb. Hence, it can be said with certainty that another chapter of the infighting—whose only aims were to destroy what has been left of Lebanon, to divide it, and to turn it into a satellite state serving the Arab nation's enemies—has been closed.

A mere initial review of the number of the victims who fell because of this infighting enables one to understand the magnitude, the objectives, and the dangers posed by the conspiracy, not only to Lebanon, but also to Syria and the entire Arab homeland.

Now that our valiant forces which have taken it upon themselves to serve the Arab nation's causes everywhere have completed their mission, it has become certain and natural to see people return to their homes and lead normal lives. The other thing which should not go unnoticed by anybody is that the only objective behind our forces' entry into the suburb is to end the unjustifiable bloodletting, to entrench security, to restore stability to all parts of Lebanon, and to help the brothers resolve their problems by themselves without any outside interference.

As Syria is eager to entrench the unity of Lebanon—land and people—we hope to see the warring forces in Lebanon work seriously toward accomplishing the reconciliation process. This process constitutes the solid and sound groundwork for the existence of a strong homeland fortified by the unity of its land and people. Once this great and long-awaited accomplishment is achieved, our valiant forces will return to their original positions to confront our nation's enemy, as they will have thwarted all enemy conspiracies and entrenched the unity of Lebanon—land and people.

We are certain that all sincere forces in Lebanon will deal positively with the new pan-Arab initiative launched by Syria in the suburb. However, and at the same time, all these sincere forces must remain wary and alert, especially when we know that Lebanon's enemies still have some agents in Lebanon. These agents, the tools, may initiate moves at the behest and urging of their masters outside the borders in a bid to halt or obstruct the accurate implementation of the suburb's security plan as scheduled. When we call upon the Lebanese brothers to beware of the enemies' attempts, we voice these calls as these enemies made similar previous attempts in West Beirut and Tripoli. There is no doubt that Syria, which has implemented the sercurity plan of the suburb, is aware of what the enemies of Lebanon and the Arab nation might do. However, as it did before and especially in West Beirut, Syria will not allow anybody to undermine this plan or harm those who are carrying it out.

AL-THAWRAH on Moscow Summit, Mideast Peace

JN2905075388 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 29 May 88

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Moscow Summit and Peace in the Region", AL-THAWRAH says: If the summit were to arrive at important results regarding solutions in the region, it must basically consider the nature and essence of the regional conflict. When such a thing takes place, the way to bring about a solution becomes clear: namely, through curbing Israeli aggression, ending Israeli occupation of Arab territories, and allowing the Palestinian Arab people to regain their full national rights. This is the only way to defuse the conflict which is whetted by Tel Aviv's expansionist trends, by its refusal to succumb to the will of the world public and also by its dependence on the blind U.S. bias toward its expansionist schemes and its aggressive policies.

The Arabs want the summit to delineate the facts regarding the conflict and pave the way for serious efforts to resolve it on the basis of just, durable, and comprehensive considerations based on the complete Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and the realization of the Palestinian Arab people's legitimate rights to repatriation, self-determination, and establishment of their independent state.

The way to achieve this is very obvious. It can be summed up by bringing about a change in the United States' blind bias toward the Israeli side and curbing Washington's continued indifference to Arab rights as well as its support for the Israeli aggression. This is the way to thwart U.S. policy which seeks to singlehandedly achieve a settlement modeled on the Camp David accords. This would also herald the first step toward establishment of genuine peace desired by the entire world, despite its preoccupation with the strategic weapons agreements which may be concluded at the summit.

Jordan's Al-Rifa'i Arrives in Damascus

JN3005102988 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1015 GMT 30 May 88

[Text] Zayd al-Rifa'i, prime minister of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, arrived in Damascus at 1200 today. Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi led those who welcomed him at the airport. He was also welcomed by a number of ministers and the Jordanian ambassador in Damascus. Al-Zu'bi and Al-Rifa'i headed for Al-Rawdah Palace in Damascus in an official motorcade.

Received by Al-Asad

JN3005112688 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 30 May 88

[Text] At 1315 today, President Hafiz al-Asad received Jordanian Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i. Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi attended the meeting.

Afghanistan

French Journalist Alain Guillo Released 28 May

LD2805222688 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1600 GMT 28 May 88

[Text] As a result of an appeal by His Excellency Francois Mitterrand, president of France, Esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, pardoned Alain Guillo from his remaining sentence. He is a French citizen who had illegally entered the territory of Afghanistan, was arrested by the country's security forces and sentenced to 10 years imprisonment.

The prisoner was told of his pardon by the Afghan president through Decree Number 287 dated 26 May 1988. During a ceremony this afternoon, at which the special envoy of the French president, His Excellency Gilbert Perol and French Embassy officials in Kabul were present, Alain Guillo was handed over to them by the head of counsular affairs of the Foreign Ministry.

His Excellency Gilbert Perol expressed thanks for the humanitarian decision taken by Esteemed Najibullah concerning the pardon of Alain Guillo.

According to another report, the special envoy of the French president left Kabul for Paris this afternoon at 1500. He was seen off at Kabul International Airport by deputy head of [name indistinct] and the deputy head of protocol of Foreign Affairs Ministry of Republic of Afghanistan.

AFP Reports Release

BK2805083888 Hong Kong AFP in English 0828 GMT 28 May 88

[Text] Kabul, May 28 (AFP)—Kabul authorities Saturday freed jailed French photo-journalist Alain Guillo.

Mr. Guillo was handed over to French special envoy Gilbert Perol by officials from the Kabul Foreign Ministry exactly at noon local time.

Mr. Guillo looked cheerful and was in good spirits, diplomatic sources told AFP. Mr. Perol was to escort Mr. Guillo back home later Saturday, the sources said.

Mr. Guillo was brought to Kabul from Pol-e Charki prison, 15 kilometres (9 miles) from here, and received by Mr. Perol and French Embassy officials at the downtown Aryana Hotel.

On Friday, Mr. Guillo, sentenced to 10 years in prison on charges of spying and subversive activities in January, was granted a pardon by Afghan President Najibullah.

(Meanwhile, in Paris, a Foreign Ministry spokesman confirmed Mr. Guillo was released early Saturday and "is now at the French Embassy."

"He is to return to France within the next 24 hours," the spokesman added.

"His release is the fruit of contacts with the Afghan authorities to obtain a pardon for the French journalist," he continued.

"The French Government is happy that Mr. Guillo can return to his country and his family," the spokesman added.)

Najibullah Message to Mitterrand on Pardoning

LD2705185188 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 27 May 88

[Text] In reply to a message from the French president, Esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, handed over the following message to the French president's special envoy:

His Excellency Francois Mitterrand, president of France

Mr President:

Please accept my heartfelt congratulations on the occasion of your reelection as French president. I received your letter via your personal envoy Mr Gilbert Perol on 27 May 1988. In view of the contents of your excellency's letter and the historic and valuable relations between the Republics of Afghanistan and France, I am confident that the people of France respect our people's struggle for peace. Certainly, as has been expressed in your letter, the present conditions could lead to better relations and the development of links between the Republics of Afghanistan and France.

I should state that with the signing of the Geneva accords, no factors exist which can prevent an improvement in and a strengthening of relations between the Republics of Afghanistan and France. These accords are the fruits of realism and the flexibility shown by all sides concerned, and have inseperable links with the initiatives of the Republic of Afghanistan with regard to adopting the policy of national reconciliation, which has paved the way for accelerating the process of peace in Afghanistan.

The Republic of Afghanistan is determined to fully implement the Geneva accords and similarly expects others concerned to do the same. We hope that the Republic of France, by using its influence and international authority and by pressuring the other sides, will assist in implementing the Geneva accords, which, on an international level, are an important link for peace. The implementation of the Geneva accords, which is seen as [words indistinct] for the solution of regional conflicts, profoundly needs international support and solidarity.

Your Excellency is aware that the national reconciliation policy, which reflects the interests of all strata, classes, and social groups in our country, has been implemented in practice in the Republic of Afghanistan since June 1987.

The Republic of Afghanistan, by following the policy of neutrality and nonalignment and free judgment in international affairs, desires the expansion and consolidation of friendly relations with all countries for the honest implementation of international pledges, on the basis of the equality of rights, reciprocal respect for independence, national sovereignty, territorial integrity, and on the basis of nonintervention, nonaggression, and accepted international norms and standards.

With a profound desire for better relations between the Republics of Afghanistan and France, we respect Your Excellency's request and pardon Alain Guillo, a citizen of the Republic of France, who acted against the Republic of Afghanistan and who was sentenced to 10 years imprisonment, in accordance with Presidential Decree No 278, dated 26 May 1988.

With confidence and desire that our goodwill will result in a better understanding between the Republics of Afghanistan and France and in strengthening friendship among our peoples, I ask you, Mr President, to accept our best wishes.

[Signed] Najibullah, president of Afghanistan

Kabul city, 27 May 1988

National Assembly Holds First Session 29 May

LD2905095588 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 0930 GMT 29 May 88

[Text] In accordance with the Constitution of the Republic of Afghanistan, the first session of the country's Meli Shura [National Assembly] was officially opened at 1100 this morning with a speech by Esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan.

The work of the first session of the legislative period, which was held under the chairmanship of Sayyed Helaluddin Badri, was opened with the recitation of a few verses from the holy Koran. All the representatives of the Wolasi Jirgah [House of Representatives] and senators participated at the opening session.

At the end of the opening speech by Esteemed Najibullah, Sayyed Halaluddin Badri spoke briefly and announced that the sessions of the Meli Shura including the House of Representatives and Senate will be held separately and continue their work.

Najibullah Addresses Opening

LD2905173088 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 0630 GMT 29 May 88

[Speech by President Najibullah at opening of National Assembly session in Kabul—live]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Dear representatives and senators, [words indistinct]. During recent years major political, socioeconomic, and cultural changes have taken place. The country has passed through very serious and even tragic experiences. Afghanistan has changed and our brave, faithful Muslim people have also changed.

Here, again, the historic capital of our country is witnessing an important event that reminds us of the glorious history of our country. This event will become another brilliant page in the history of traditional Afghan democracy. The Afghan people have great hopes and aspirations for this event. The best representatives of the Afghan nation have gathered here. The country and the people have placed great confidence in you. You are on a mission of great responsibility for the fate of Afghanistan. You have gathered to examine and resolve issues of great concern to every compatriot. You have the great honor of opening the doors of the Afghan coalition and the doors of peace.

The people's assembly is one of the great achievements of national reconciliation. Clearly, for the first time in the country's history, the public's views were sought on the draft constitution. Illiteracy and the obstacles caused by the extremists could not stop the expression of the people's free and public opinion on the draft constitution. The people voted for it and rightly called it the constitution of peace, reconciliation, and democracy. In accordance with the Constitution, elections to the Meli Shura [National Assembly] were held in April.

These elections were truly free, democratic, secret, and massive. Such political and social dynamism has never before been seen in the history of our country. Those 10 days of April will remain alive in the memory of our people as a real celebration of democracy: 1.6 million compatriots participated in the elections; 4 to 5 people ran as candidates for every seat. The people elected their best representatives. A total of 184 representatives and 115 senators were elected. Therefore we can say that the present assembly is an example of good democracy—it is the people's organ. It includes representatives of the Pashtuns, Tajiks, Uzbeks, Turkmans, Hazaras, Baluchis, Nomads, Nuristanis, Pashays, and other nationalities and tribes.

Dear friends, I see among you the respectable faces of elders, of dear ulema and clergy, workers, farmers, doctors, engineers, teachers and lecturers, scholars and intellectuals, businessmen and national entrepreneurs. There are among you men and women, young and old,

and representatives of various parties and social organizations. Also among you representatives and senators are elected envoys of the opposition.

Moreover, there are 62 vacant seats reserved for the opposition and waiting for them. Briefly, the envoys of all strata, classes, and different groups of the population participate in the parliament of the country. The Meli Shura of Afghanistan is a vivid sample of traditional Afghan democracy. Our democracy is not imported. Our democracy has kept its true face.

Traditional Afghan assemblies are the foundation of this democracy. The admirable characteristics of these assemblies is their popularity. The principles of these assemblies are manifested in Pashtun and Afghan tradition and norms. There is no family in Afghanistan which solves its problems without a family assembly. There is no village whose domestic problems are solved without an assembly. By the same token, the whole country's problems are solved through assemblies.

These assemblies have deep historic and ancient roots. If we look at the history of Afghanistan we can see that assemblies have been convened at historic stages when good and important decisions about the fate of Afghanistan were made. The Meli Shura is the highest form of this democracy. It complies with the principles of the holy religion of Islam and with the tradition of our people. We are dutybound as the true heirs of this ancient culture of our country not only to safeguard it but also to develop it and to enrich it with new content to answer the requirements of our time.

We will never oppose useful customs and progressive traditions. The wisdom of a political administration lies in the fact that it should pay attention to all social strata and to all national demands and interests and care for them all, and these issues should not be damaged.

How should Afghan society be? We believe that Afghan society should be heterogeneous, coalitionist, multibased and multinational. The policy of national reconciliation has enriched traditional Afghan democracy. The multiparty coalition system is the pillar of Afghanistan's new political system; namely, every class force, social organization, and national group with common political and economic interests is entitled to take part in the political life of the country.

Coalition means that all political forces, movements, and organizations which recognize peaceful dialogue as the means of solving political problems can take part in the administration on the basis of joint negotiations and resolutions. A great deal of work has been done in this crucial direction, and you yourselves were and are participants in these efforts.

The coalition government of Afghanistan takes on the responsibility of administration at a difficult time. The Geneva accords open new horizons to national reconciliation. The path toward peace and security came into being despite the lack of responsible behavior, mutual trust, and understanding; (?nevertheless) it is successful.

The accords signed in Geneva certainly do not mean we will see immediate results. However, they prepare the necessary external conditions for the rapid maintenance of peace. Today we are close to the total success of peace in the country, but the remaining path is still difficult and complicated.

The Meli Shura of Afghanistan must turn into a peace parliament, and it should play a great role in the national reconciliation of Afghanistan. I promise you that the president of Afghanistan, the alliance of democratic left parties, and especially the PDPA will strive for the unification with all patriotic and peace-loving forces, so that the peace assembly, your parliament, can fulfill its historic obligation in the best way. [applause]

As president of Afghanistan I propose that the Afghan legislative bodies formulate a system of political and social measures so that the cease-fire and the return and resettlement of Afghan emigrants will be implemented without difficulties [applause] and the decrees of pardons which were approved by the government are practically implemented.

We praise the selfless fraternal assistance of the internationalist troops of the Soviet Union. I call on the Meli Shura to send them off to their country with dignity and to participate in developing our ever-increasing friendship with the Soviet Union. There is only one way for the future of Afghanistan and that is the way of peace. I do not hide from you the problem which exists here. The irreconcilible opposition does not want to listen to the call of sound reason. It is increasing armed pressure.

You are witnesses to this continuation of attacks on villages with rockets. They carry out destructive and treacherous attacks. We are ready to inflict a crushing blow on the extremists. At the same time, however, the door to negotiations and compromise remains open. We do not stand apart from political realism. We are ready to listen to the views of the other side on all current and future issues in Afghanistan.

The commencement of the Meli Shura's work provides a good chance to break the ice of distrust and to establish constructive talks. We are ready to receive Zahir Shah [exiled king of Afghanistan] in Kabul. I am sure that this event will be approved and respected by Afghanistan's noble compatriots.

I am expecting an invitation to talks from the leaders of the seven-party alliance, the representatives of the moderate opposition, and the second and third level commanders who are operating inside Afghanistan. We are

to talk to every one of them collectively to consider our problems. We all have a common blood and faith and we are all Afghans. [applause] We all have a common country and a common home, dear Afghanistan.

Tolerance and compromise are a powerful means of reconciliation. Today this means is delivered to you. I call on you to use it with much caution and taking into account national interests. [applause] But remember also that our readiness for reconciliation has its limits. We will never drop the principles of territorial integrity, national sovereignty, positive neutralism, and nonalignment, while remaining friendly with our neighbors and all countries of the world.

Very respected senators and representatives, today the authority of the Revolutionary Council is terminated and the Meli Shura assumes its duties as the supreme legislative organ. For many years the Revolutionary Council sincerely carried out its duties under very difficult conditions. On behalf of the people of Afghanistan and myself, I thank all the members of the previous Revolutionary Council. The term of office of the Council of Ministers, which was chaired for 9 years by Comrade Keshtmand, is also terminated. Comrade Keshtmand was awarded the order of the "Sun of Freedom" for his service to the people. [applause]

Comrade Keshtmand will concentrate his knowledge and experience as a secretary of the PDPA Central Committee. I asked Dr Muhammad Hasan Sharq to form a new coalition cabinet and introduce it to you and to propose a policy program for the new government. [applause]

We have talked about our program many times. It is clear to our brave people and to all organizations. The basic task of our program is peace and security, which we must reach through national reconciliation and the Geneva accords.

The Republic of Afghanistan will create the necessary conditions under the Afghan Constitution for the growth of Islamic and national values. [applause] It will never disobey the customs, rituals, and Islamic tenets which have been nurtured in the hearts of the people of Afghanistan over the centuries.

We will maintain the Armed Forces for the safey of the national reconciliation policy so that the country's national sovereignty, territorial integrity, and independence are well defended. Strengthening war-preparedness is a fundamental task for safeguarding peace. Peace cannot be ensured without powerful armed forces.

In foreign policy the Republic of Afghanistan follows the principles of nonalignment, active and positive neutralism, free decision making on international issues, and noninterference in the affairs of other countries. The Republic of Afghanistan is interested in having friendly relations with neighboring countries and all other countries. It is a loyal member of the United Nations and observes its charter. The Republic of Afghanistan has deep relations with the nonaligned countries and members of the Islamic Conference Organization.

Before you responsible representatives of the nation I once again avow that we will not stop until the final victory of the national reconciliation policy, which entails the interests of every individual of the country. [applause]

We view the Geneva accords with total respect. They form the fundamental basis of peace in the region and the world, and we demand that the other sides involved respect these accords.

The socioeconomic tasks of our republican state are: the creation of vast possibilities for investment by national entrepreneurs and foreign investment based on diverse economic principles so that all Afghans can work on the land, in shops, in industry, and in administration in order to build a guaranteed future.

The Republic of Afghanistan encourages the real growth of legality under the Constitution. As we said in the Grand Assembly the national parliament will be our basic instrument in this respect. You have obtained the confidence of the people, and through this you have become the demonstrators of the national reconciliation caravan which passes through your towns and villages and through the whole country. Use your credibility to prepare the conditions for negotiations with the opposition. Your duty to the people and the country is to be a model of honesty, piety, and wisdom, in the state administration.

I inaugurate the first session of the National Assembly of the Republic of Afghanistan. I hope that Almighty God grants success to all of you senators and representatives in the fulfillment of your responsible tasks and in obtaining great successes in implementing the Constitution of our powerful state. Success comes from God.

Inaugural Session Detailed

BK2905114388 Hong Kong AFP in English 1123 GMT 29 May 88

[By Anil Penna]

[Text] Kabul, May 29 (AFP)—The Afghan parliament met here Sunday for the first time since the monarchy was toppled 15 years ago and heard President Najibullah call for measures to promote a ceasefire with Moslem rebels.

"As president of the country, I propose to the National Assembly to promote measures intended to bring about an immediate ceasefire" with the mujahidin fighting his

Soviet-backed government, Mr Najibullah said in a speech. He did not list the measures, but urged the Moslem rebels to make peace.

Some 342 newly-elected deputies from both houses of the bicameral National Assembly attended the opening session at Kabul's Storey Palace which lasted 35 minutes.

The rebels have rejected Mr Najibullah's offers to join a coalition government and vowed to pursue their nine-year-old "jihad" or holy war, despite a phased withdrawal of Soviet troops which began two weeks ago.

Mr Najibullah called on the rebels to join the process of national reconciliation launched by his government last year.

Dressed in a favourite dark suit and speaking in Pashto, Mr Najibullah said the meeting of the National Assembly marked a "glorious page" in Afghanistan's history, it being the first time that parliament had been chosen "through free, fair and democratic" elections.

"Today, Kabul witnesses an event of great significance," the former secret police chief said in a speech punctuated by six rounds of polite applause.

All sectors of society were represented in parliament, he said, appealing to the deputies to "to make use of your influence to promote a dialogue with the opposition (rebels)."

Under the present system, Mr Najibullah's People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA) makes policy while parliament can debate it. Elections were completed in March and April with 1.6 million voters taking part in a secret ballot.

The National Assembly comprises the 184-seat House of Representatives— where 50 seats have been left vacant for the mujahidin to fill—and the 158-member Senate.

One-third of the Senate seats are filled by popular vote, one third is nominated by the president and the remainder are chosen by local administrative bodies.

Sunday's session, marking the first time parliament has met since King Zahir Shah was toppled in a 1973 coup, began with a mullah reciting from the Moslem holy book, the Koran.

Mr Najibullah sat on a raised platform flanked by Halaluddin Badri, president (speaker) of the Senate, and Sayyed Muzafaruddin Muzafari, president (speaker) of the House of Representatives.

Mr Najibullah said the Geneva accord, signed on April 14, which paved the way for the Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan, did not mean "overnight peace," although it had brought peace tangibly closer.

To ensure peace, the PDPA was ready to make concessions in order to form a "heterogenous" coalition government under the multi-party system introduced last year, Mr Najibullah said.

"But our concessions have their limitations. We will never compromise with the territorial integrity, unity, non-aligned and neutral status of Afghanistan," he added.

He said his government's main priorities were to ensure peace and security and guarantee the combat-readiness of the Armed Forces.

It would seek to promote friendship with all countries, adhere strictly to the United Nations Charter, pursue a mixed economy and respect the Islamic tenets and traditions of the Afghan people, Mr Najibullah said.

Parliament adjourned after Mr Najibullah"s speech and was scheduled to meet again later Sunday to frame rules of proceedure. Prime Minister-Designate Muhammad Hasan Sharq, a non-PDPA member, will then present his cabinet and seek a vote of confidence.

UN Informed of Pakistani 'Violations' of Accords

LD2905195188 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 29 May 88

[Text] The Foreign Ministry's Bureau for Coordination with the UN Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan [UNGOMAP] has reported that this afternoon, 29 May, the seventh memorandum of the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan concerning five cases of blatant violations by Pakistan of pledges in Article 2 of Document No 1 of the Geneva accords was handed to the UNGOMAP in Kabul.

This memorandum provides the requisite information concerning the places and dates of the violations and asks the commission to investigate them as soon as possible and to present the results to the joint meeting of the two countries for mutual assessment.

According to another report, the bureau handed the eighth memorandum of the Afghan Government to UNGOMAP this afternoon. This memorandum reports three blatant violations by Pakistan of its pledges in the agreement on noninterference and nonintervention. Once again this memorandum demands that the violations be seriously considered, that the report be given to the joint meeting of representatives of Afghanistan and Pakistan, and that practical measures be sought for an end to these violations.

Soviet, Government Troops Leave Panjsher Valley
BK3005110888 Hong Kong AFP in English 1100 GMT 30 May 88

[Text] Islamabad, May 30 (AFP)—Soviet and Afghan troops have pulled out of the Panjsher Valley mujahidin stronghold in northern Afghanistan, a spokesman for the Jamiyat-e Eslami rebel group said Monday.

He said the troops had abandoned their main bases at Rokhah and Unaba on Tuesday and "the valley is now totally under mujahidin control."

Before pulling out, the Soviet troops had heavily mined the two bases at the mouth of the valley, the spokesman said.

The Jamiyat-e Eslami spokesman said refugees trying to return to the valley faced great difficulties because of the mines.

"Several civilians have been killed and wounded due to (the) enemy's mining of the area," he said without giving any casualty figures. The mujahidin were now clearing the area, he added.

The Soviet-Afghan pull-out follows the rebel capture of the (Tanbana) garrison earlier this month.

The fall of (Tanbana) was "a major set back for the regime forces in the valley," he said.

The guerrillas had taken over the Bazarak and Baharak garrisons last week when they were evacuated, he added.

The Panjsher Valley has witnessed at least nine Soviet and Afghan attempts to dislodge the guerrillas in the strategically important region.

The spokesman also denied reports that the main rebel commander in the area Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, had reached a secret understanding with the Soviet forces not to attack them as they withdrew from Afghanistan.

He said the rebels had also taken the Afghan Army post at Ahangaran on the strategic Salang highway leading to the Soviet Union one week ago, capturing 120 Afghan soldiers.

Rebels Say Panjsher Liberated
LD3005151688 Tehran IRNA in English 1506 GMT 30 May 88

[Text] Islamabad, May 30, IRNA—Afghan mujahidin liberated the 100-square-km. Panjsher Valley in Parvan Province last Thursday after inflicting heavy casualties on joint Soviet-Afghan troops. The aggressor forces retreated to Rokhah and A'nabeh [name as received] regions, mujahidin sources said here today.

According to these sources, the mujahidin also stormed positions of the intruding forces in Salang Valley of Ahangaran region last week destroying several military outposts and capturing 120 Soviet-government troops.

The mujahidin also seized intact 75 light and semi-heavy weapons, said the sources.

Rebels Term Sharq Appointment 'Cosmetic' Change
BK2805152688 Hong Kong AFP in English 1511 GMT 28 May 88

[Text] Islamabad, May 28 (AFP)—The Afghan resistance Saturday rejected the Kabul regime's new prime minister, Muhammad Hasan Sharq, as a known communist who has played a key role in successive Soviet-backed coups in Afghanistan.

Dr. Sharq, 63, replaced Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand Thursday and was presented by President Najibullah as a non-party bureaucrat who would speed up national reconciliation and convince the rebel forces to join a broad-based government.

But the seven-party resistance alliance based in Pakistan, describing the appointment as "a cosmetic and self-deceptive change", said the new premier will have no bearing on the political and military situation in Afghanistan.

"Afghan mujahidin do not give a damn to the change, brought about by the dying regime of Najibullah," the alliance said in a communique from Peshawar.

A spokesman of Yunis Khalis, head of the powerful Hezb-e Eslami faction of the mujahidin, reacted to the appointment in a similar vein, saying: "For us, it is like one puppet making room for the other."

A moderate Afghan intellectual, Nayim Majruh, claiming to know the new premier well, told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE: "Afghan people will never trust Mr. Sharq, as they know he continues to maintain secret relations with the KGB (Soviet secret police)."

The appointment of Dr. Sharq, who helped to mastermind the coup that overthrew the monarchy of King Zahir Shah in 1973, also dashed hopes for the return of the former king to unify the country, said Mr. Majruh, whose father, Bahauddin Majruh, was allegedly assassinated by the anti-monarchists.

The former king has been tipped as a leader who would be acceptable to moderate rebels as well as Afghan tribes.

Mr. Majruh described Dr. Sharq as "an obsolete Soviet card" used repeatedly in Afghan politics in the past 15 years.

Ceremony Held for Soviet Troops Leaving Ghazni

LD2805184688 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1530 GMT 28 May 88

[Text] A great gathering was arranged today in the city of Ghazni to pay tribute to the service and memories of Soviet troops and officers whose international duty in Ghazni Province has ended.

According to the military section of the BIA, during this gathering, which was attended by many people, a number of speakers on behalf of the Armed Forces and state and party organizations spoke about the unforgettable services of the Soviet internationalist troops and officers in our country and welcomed the return of the Soviet military units to their peace-loving country. They lauded the memories of the troops' stay in Ghazni Province during the fulfillment of their internationalist duties.

Then messages from state, party, and social organizations of Ghazni Province and from military units were read praising the internationalist troops and hopes were expressed for their safe return to the Soviet Union. The meeting ended with a presentation of flowers to the internationalist troops who are ending their internationalist duties in Ghazni Province. Deep gratitude was expressed for the fulfillment of their internationalist and fraternal duties.

Troops Pass Baghlan, Samangan

LD3105071588 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0451 GMT 31 May 88

[text] Kabul, May 30, BAKHTAR—Thousands of people in Pol-e Khomri and Samangan cities, centres of the provinces of Baghlan and Samangan, bade farewell to one of the units of the limited military contingents of the Soviet Union on their way back home while crossing areas of those provinces.

The inhabitants of Pol-e Khomri and Samangan cities who formed lined alongside the Kabul-Hayratan highway awarded gifts to internationalist soldiers and officers of the Soviet Union and wished them a good journey back home.

4 Killed in 'Heavy Weapons' Attack on Kabul

LD2705174688 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1530 GMT 27 May 88

[Text] Extremist criminals, who have committed hundreds of disgracful and inhuman crimes against our compatriots and are responsible for killing hundreds of them, this afternoon resorted to another savage and anti-Islamic act in Kabul city, killing four of our innocent compatriots, including three women and one child.

The military section of BIA reports that between 1745 and 1830 today, these criminals fired 10 rounds of heavy weapons into residential houses in Qal'eh-ye Shada, Qal'eh-ye Bahador Khan, Sar-e Ghazni, Gol Khanah village, (Char Kala), and (Deh Bori), killing four people and injuring five innocent children, severely damaging three houses and the new Qal'eh-ye Shada school in Kabul city.

Those injured in this tragic incident were quickly taken to hospitals by the security forces, where their conditions have been described as satisfactory.

Operations Against 'Extremist' Groups Reported

LD2905180588 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 29 May 88

[Text] A BAKHTAR military correspondent reports that an extremist group, which had been engaged for some time in criminal and terrorist actions in order to disrupt the peaceful life of the locals of Wazah Khwah district, Paktika Province, was crushed yesterday by the country's Armed Forces as a result of a request and all-round cooperation from the locals. Several of their caches and hide-outs in the Monari, Jani Kheyl and Kalay regions were destroyed.

As a result of the operation a large amount of enemy foodstuffs, weapons, and ammunition, including 554 boxes of DsHK rounds, 804 mortar shells, 252 antivehicle mines, 2 boxes of DsHK ammunition, 20 boxes of light ammunition, and (?one) (?1) Bren machinegun were seized by the Armed Forces. One recoilless gun and DsHK and two rocket launchers were destroyed.

According to another report, in the continuing combat operations in the environs of Faryab Province, two ringleaders of extremist groups, named (Ezatullah) and (Ghulam Sakhi), who used heavy weapons to disrupt the lives of the citizens of Meymaneh city, were crushed. As a result of the operations, 12 hideouts of the extremist ghroups were destroyed and 9,700 rounds of assorted ammunition and several antivehicle and antipersonnel mines were seized from them.

A report from the Emam Saheb district, Konduz Province, states that a 40-man group belonging to the extremist bands who engaged in subversive activities in the environs of that district, disrupting the peaceful life of the locals, were crushed yesterday by the country's Armed Forces. As a result of this operation, two recoilless guns and dozens of assorted weapons of extremist groups and their hide-outs were destroyed.

According to a report from Baghlan Province, the country's Armed Forces foiled a satanic plan of the extremist groups in the environs of Baghlan city. The BAKHTAR military section reported that, as a result of activity carried out as a result of active cooperation with the locals of the (Jartaq) and (Arbaq) villages, a 19-man group of extremists who were disrupting the peaceful life of the people of those regions was crushed and their weapons and ammunition were seized by the Armed Forces.

Najibullah Speaks at Leftist Parties Meeting

LD2805180188 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1600 GMT 28 May 88

[Text] A session of the coordination council of the Alliance of Left Democratic Parties of the Republic of Afghanistan was held today at the headquarters of the presidency. Esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan and general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, chaired the meeting which was attended by a number of member of the PDPA, the Toiler Revolutionary Organization of Afghanistan [TROA], the Toilers Organization of Afghanistan [TOA], and a working group of the coordination council.

At the beginning of the session Esteemed Najibullah spoke about the first session of the Meli Shura [National Assembly], which will be held tomorrow. He shed light in connection with the new government, which will be fully revolutionary, and said: Without doubt, the new government will play an active role in consolidating the national reconciliation policy in Afghanistan and in establishing nationwide peace.

Talks were also held on subjects of mutual interest among those concerned. The session ended with complete understanding.

Presidential Decree on Kabul Mayor's Election

LD2805091988 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0430 GMT 28 May 88

[Text] Kabul, May 27, BAKHTAR—"Kabul municipality and the eleven districts of Kabul city should hold a joint extraordinary session of Kabul municipality, introduce the candidates and elect the Kabul mayor through secret and democratic votes," says a presidential decree on election of Kabul city mayor released last night.

"The election commission of Kabul city for the National Assembly should guide and supervise the election of Kabul mayor. Way of voting for electing Kabul mayor should conform fully to the norms of elections to the National Assembly", the decree noted.

Hakim Elected Kabul Mayor

LD2905093288 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0457 GMT 29 May 88

[Text] Kabul, May 28, BAKHTAR—According to the decree of Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan, the extraordinary and joint sessions of the councils of the people's deputies of Kabul city and the eleven precincts of Kabul city for the election of Kabul mayor was held here today.

During the sessions documents of twenty eight candidates were assessed.

Out of 465 deputies of the residents of the capital and its eleven precincts 346 took part in the sessions to elect Kabul mayor.

Ballot cases for each candidate were examined. Later pollings were conducted directly and secretly under the supervision of the Election Commission of National Assembly.

The commission announced results of the election and Muhammad Hakim was elected with a majority of votes as mayor of Kabul city.

National Assembly Chairmen, Others Elected

LD3005173988 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 30 May 88

[Excerpts] The sessions of the Wolasi Jirgah [House of Representatives and Senate were held separately this morning at Meli Shura [National Assembly] headquarters. Khalil Ahmad Abawi, Kabul representative, was elected unanimously as Wolasi Jirgah chairman and Dr Mahmud Habib was elected unanimously, with one abstention, as the Senate chairman. [passage omitted]

A BAKHTAR correspondent reports that the session of the Wolasi Jerga was held this morning chaired by Sayyed Muzafaruddin Shah Muzafari, acting chairman. [passage omitted] Then, the acting secretary of the Wolasi Jirgah read out the list of the candidates for the posts of chairman, vice chairman, and secretaries to the Wolasi Jirgah. After open voting, Esteemed Khalil Ahmad Abawi, Kabul representative, was elected unanimously as the permanent chairman of the Wolasi Jirgah.

During the second part of today's session, Wolasi Jirgah Chairman Khalil Ahmad Abawa, who presided, thanked the representatives for electing him chairman.

From among the six candidate for the post of vice chairman, Saleh Muhammad Ziray, Kabul representative, and Zohurullah Zohuri, Badkhshan representative, were elected unanimously as deputies to the Wolasi Jirgah.

From among the six candidates for the post of secretary to the Wolasi Jirgah, Sayyed Muzafaruddin Shah Muzafari, Kabul representative, and 'Abdurrahim Ayni, Jowzjan representative, were unanimously elected.

The BAKHTAR correspondent reports from the Senate work session that the Senate session was held and chaired by Sayyed Halaluddin Badri, acting Senate chairman, with the participation of 120 senators. The issue of electing a Senate administrative delegation was presented by the acting chairman. Then the list of candidates for the post of chairman, deputy chairman, and Senate secretaries was read out.

The BAKHTAR correspondent adds that Mahmud Habibi, Kabul senator, was elected unanimously with one abstention as the permanent Senate chairman. In the next Senate session, which was held under the chairmanship of Esteemed Mahmud Habibi, permanent Senate chairman, a few verses from the holy Koran were read, and then Esteemed Habibi expressed appreciation for the Senate's great trust in electing him as chairman, and wished the senators success in their work for the homeland and people.

Then the issue of electing deputies, secretaries, and a Senate administrative delegation was discussed. At the request of the members of the house, it was postponed until the next session.

India

T.N. Seshan Appointed New Defense Secretary

BK2805144888 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 28 May 88

[Text] It has been officially stated in New Delhi that Mr T.N. Seshan will be the new defense secretary. He is at present secretary in the Department of Environment and Forests and will succeed Mr S.K. Bhatnagar who retires this month.

Sikh Leaders Detained, Jailed in Delhi

BK2905061088 Delhi Domestic Service in Hindi 0530 GMT 29 May 88

[Text] The Punjab government has taken into custody the state's former chief minister, Mr Prakash Singh Badal, and six other leaders of the Unified Akali Dal under the National Security Act. An official spokesman told the AIR Chandigarh correspondent that the leaders have been sent to the Delhi jail.

The Chandigarh police had previously arrested the seven leaders a few days ago for violating prohibitory orders. The other detained leaders are Sukhvinder Singh, Sukhdev Singh Dhinsa, Surjan Singh Thekedar, Gurdev Singh Badal, Kuldip Singh Vadala, and Sher Singh Damchary.

According to a PTI report from Ludhiana, terrorists shot dead the general secretary of the district Congress-I Party, Mr Atama Ram Arya, at his shop in Sangrala this morning. A customer inside the shop was also shot dead.

5 Sikh Head Priests Removed by SGPC 30 May

BK3005130488 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 30 May 88

[Text] The Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee today removed all the five Sikh head priests from their posts. They are Bha. Jaszir Singh, Bhai Surinder Singh, Bhai Kashmir Singh, Bhai Puran Singh, and Bhai Jaswant Singh.

The executive of the SGPC took this action at its meeting in Amritsar charging them with betrayal of the panth [religion]. All these priests are now in jail. They were appointed by the militants in April last year. This action of the SGPC is seen as a move to retrieve its authority.

The SGPC appointed new incumbents in their places. They are Mr Harcharan Singh, the head priest of the Akal Takht [highest seat of Sikh religion]; Mr Balbir Singh, head priest of Anandpur Saheb; Mr Jagir Singh Pula, head priest of Damdama Saheb; Giani Sohan Singh, head granthi [reciter of the holy scriptures] of the Golden Temple; and Mr Preetam Singh, head granthi of the Akal Takht.

Announcing this decision, the SGPC general secretary, Mr Mal Singh Gumand, said the new incumbents will remain as acting head priests till the appointments are confirmed after traditional consultations with religious organizations.

SGPC To Work With Government on Temple Cleanup

BK3105035088 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 31 May 88

[Text] In Punjab, the Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee, SGPC, has decided to work together with the government for upholding the sanctity of the Golden Temple. In Amritsar last night, the SGPC representatives told the authorities that the work of demolishing unwanted structures and rooms had already been launched. They said the SGPC was opposed to terrorism and extremism and was determined not to allow these elements to dishonor the Harmandir Saheb [inner shrine].

They also assured the authorities to maintain the peaceful atmosphere following the flushing out of terrorists. The SGPC executive committee, which met in Amritsar yesterday, has decided not to allow anybody to stay in the parikrama [walkway around the Golden Temple] of the Golden Temple at night. It decided to remove all unauthorized constructions in the Golden Temple complex and also to remove all the doors and windows inside the room in the parikrama.

The executive committee also decided to terminate the services of all those employees recruited earlier and whose antecedents have not yet been verified. It decided to recruit 100 armed employees from amongst ex-servicemen and seek the help of the administration for issuing arms licenses to them.

The committee said no firearms will be allowed within the parikrama. However, the devotees could deposit their licensed firearms in a special room before entering the parikrama. The SGPC reiterated that it will be the responsibility of the government to ensure that no illegal arms enter the Golden Temple complex. It described the detailed discussions it had with the administration as most cordial.

President Promulgates Arms Act Ordinance

BK2705130588 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 27 May 88

[Text] The Arms Act, 1959, has been amended providing for deterrent punishment for offenses involving arms and ammunition of different types. An ordinance to this effect was promulgated by the president today.

One of the provisions in the ordinance makes illegal possession of prohibited arms and ammunition punishable with imprisonment for 7 years to life and liability to a fine. Similar provision has also been made for illegal use, manufacture, and sale of prohibited arms and ammunition. The ordinance also provides for capital punishment for persons causing death of any person by use of illegal prohibited firearms and ammunition.

An official press release said the ordinance has been promulgated in the context of rising trend of violence and terrorism by extremists and antinational elements in various parts of the country and in particular, the alarming increase in the use of sophisticated firearms and rockets by these elements.

Iran

Reportage on Inauguration of Third Majlis

Opening Session 29 May

LD2805065788 Tehran IRNA in English 0645 GMT 28 May 88

[Text] Tehran, May 28, IRNA—The third Majlis (Islamic Parliament) was inaugurated here Saturday morning at the presence of President 'Ali Khamene'i, Chief Justice Ayatollah 'Abdolkarim Musvai-Ardabili, Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi, Hojjat ol-Eslam Ahmad Khomeyni, military and Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps officials.

The opening session was also attended by foreign diplomats and foreign and domestic reporters.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Khamene'i read Imam Khomeyni's message to the Third Majlis.

Khomeyni Message to Majlis

NC2805083588 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0510 GMT 28 May 88

[Message from Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni to the opening of the third session of the Majlis, read by his son, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni—live]

[Text] The message of the leader of the revolution and the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, his holiness the imam, to the third session of the Islamic Consultative Assembly [Majlis].

In the name of God, the Almighty, the compassionate. We thank the Almighty for His blessings and attention and for having once again granted the noble and dear Iranian nation the opportunity to carry out one of its greatest political and social duties. We thank Him for having granted the nation—at the height of mischief of the arch-Satan and his abominable followers against the revolution and the system of the Islamic Republic of Iran—the blessing to renew its allegiance with its eternal promises.

We thank Him for the fact that, despite the ill-wishers, the elections for the Third Majlis were carried out in a sound manner and at the specified time. Thank God, we are today witnessing the inauguration of the third session of the Majlis.

It is not necessary for me to refer to incidents that happened during the elections, or to the heroism of our dear people in this regard. Nor are the significance and role of the Majlis and the Council of Guardians in the system of the Islamic country of Iran a secret to anyone.

God willing, the respectable deputies of the Majlis have been aware and continue to be aware of the significance of their responsibility and mission in this vital issue, and they have understood well what the system and the people expect of them. It should be stated that the people's only desire is for the Majlis to resolve problems, eliminate deprivations, and alter the country's extremely complicated administrative system. These are among their just expectations, and should be taken seriously.

Before discussing unnecessary bills, notes, and other issues, the Majlis deputies should consider the country's key problems. They should propound laws and bills in the committees on the basis of dear Islam by eliminating the country's major problems and giving priority to implementing the country's infrastructural policies in cultural, economic, social, and political issues aimed at helping the deprived and eliminating oppression.

Today, as in the past, the country and its sytem and administration need courage to solve problems. God help us if temptations keep us from achieving our most important objectives. I hope this Majlis will be able to make great strides in resolving the problems of the deprived and barefoot through the cooperation of its deputies; through compatibility and good relations with directors, officials, and experts; and by consulting the respectable Council of Guardians.

I hope the Majlis will benefit from the Council's power, decisiveness, and speed of action in discerning interests, for this Council provides an immense, blessed, and productive cornerstone for our country.

However, more important than all this is that those who were elected to the Majlis and those who did their duties but were not elected, as well as the supporters of both groups, should know that all life is fleeting, that each and

every one of us is accountable to justice, that all what remains are our deeds and actions, and that our happiness and eternity can only be found in pleasures stemming from spirituality and the fruits borne out of sincere devotion. We should not pollute the sincerity of our acts and our Islamic society with resentments and differences; the past election rivalries should never lead to discord and separation.

I consider it probable that unclean elements and hands may want to use election rivalries to achieve their aims by propounding empty and meaningless issues, spreading discord, and creating doubts in order to harden their hearts and to cast doubts on the integrity and soundness of the elections and, ultimately, the legitimacy of the Majlis. Under such conditions, each and every member of the Iranian nation and all clergymen and officials of the country should continue down their holy path, walking together in unity.

The journalists and the press should seriously be careful of what they write and say. Also, the Majlis deputies should display fairness and affection in their relations with each other; they should not create problems and in particular, not play up personal or group issues in presenting their platforms.

In the pre-agenda speeches and so on, they should acknowledge the Majlis' respect and esteem and hold high the respect due the Majlis, the system, and the noble morality of Islam. In short, the Majlis and the deputies should be a manifestation of society's unity and harmony. The officials should—next to the people—and the people should—in line with and by supporting the officials—carry out their duties and enjoy the material and spiritual fruits of their holy unity.

They should not withdraw from the scene, because today there may be no bigger sin than withdrawal, and no excuse will be accepted for leaving the scene of the revolution.

After the elections the dear Iranian people should, as they did in the past, continue their material and moral support for the aspects of the war and the fighters, supporting the soldiers of light. All of them and the dear fighters should know that victory is ours in any case. We believe this with all our might. From the outset of the war we have repeatedly seen the blessings of justice.

The great Iranian nation should rest assured that from the day they set foot on this holy path they have lost nothing of importance. They have sustained no loss for which they should feel regret. All their investments remain in the holy presence of Almighty God.

Of course, a country like Iran, which seeks to fulfill the lofty goals of Islam, may face vicissitudes similar to events at the outset of Islam. However, for a great nation no victory is greater than their [words indistinct] and their firm determination to achieve justice. Thank God, the Almighty has blessed the Iranian nation with this. With the assistance of God and the steely determination of the people, we will resist all problems. Just as we achieved great and miraculous victories—thanks to our faith and with the assistance of the people and the fighters—with each day bringing success and new tests, from this day forward we will continue along our chosen path.

Our dear and brave fighters in the Armed Forces, the IRGC, and the Mobilization corps should continue their struggle and sacred defense by relying on their faith in God, their hope to achieve justice, and the people's unsparing support. They should strengthen their resolve, attack the abject enemy, and bring home the pride of victory and success as friuts of their determination, because the destiny of the war will be written at the fronts, not at the negotiating table.

With the assistance of God and the blessed prayer of the 12th imam, may our souls be devoted to him, we will have the last word with the Saddamists and the world-devourers on the scene of the epic of the jihad of martyrdom. We pray to God for patience and assistance. May God assist our struggles and fighters. May God's peace and blessings be upon you.

[Signed] Ruhollah al-Musavi al-Khomeyni, 28 May 1988 [chants of praise]

Khomeyni Meets Officials

LD2905113388 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 29 May 88

[Text] This morning Imam Khomeyni, the great leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, met with central headquarters officials from Tehran Province responsible for supervising elections, members and oberservers of the Council of Guardians of elections in Tehran, representatives of the interior minister, a number of inspectors, and election headquarters and Tehran polling station officials.

During the meeting, Hojjat ol-Eslam Ansari, the imam's representative in the Tehran elections, opened the audience and then referred to the message by the imam of the ummah to the third Majlis, which talked about maintaining unity, the need to continue battle until victory, and the expectations people have from the Majlis representatives.

At the end of the meeting, the imam of the ummah responded to the crowd's expressions of emotions.

Temporary Speaker Elected

LD2905103388 Tehran IRNA in English 1025 GMT 29 May 88

[Text] Tehran, May 29, IRNA—Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani was elected temporary speaker of the third-term of the Majlis by 227 votes for and four abstentions in a polling during today's Majlis session.

According to Majlis by-laws, permanent speaker of the parliament cannot be chosen until credentials of 180 deputies have been approved.

Khamene'i Addresses Session

NC2905095188 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1745 GMT 28 May 88

[Speech by President 'Ali Akbar Khamene'i to opening session of the Third Majlis on 28 May—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the almighty, the compassionate. We are very happy, and we thank God Almighty for having blessed this selfless nation,k which is worthy of the divine graces it receives, in this phase too. The fact that despite the existence of so much hostility and so many problems related to the war, despite the hostile presence of the big powers near our borders, and despite everything else stemming from these circumstances, this nation did not delay even 1 working day between the two legislative sessions of its Majlis, which is opening precisely on time, is a phenomenon truly worthy of study and analysis. God Almighty should be thanked for having granted this nation this favor. We cannot find words to thank our selfless people for their valuable presence.

I would first like to congratulate all the brothers and sisters elected to this important legislative center of the Islamic Republic. I would like to thank and praise the brothers and sisters who undertook this heavy burden, carried it to its conclusion, and exerted great efforts during the past session.

There are a few things I would like to say here. One is that we should take intc consideration the international and political conditions under which the third session is being held. This Majlis is opening at an extremely sensitive time. Once again world arrogance gathered its strength to inflict a blow to this great revolution. It is true that the struggle between this revolution and arrogance has not ceased one moment during the past 9 years. However, there are two approaches that opponents on the battle scene can take. One of these is that the opponent inflicts continuous blows, strengthening the blows, and thus weakening his opponent. If we see that after a period of time the blow inflicted is a heavy one, this is because the course of the battle was gradually drawn in that direction.

However, this does not apply to the method of world arrogance against the revolution. Yes, the revolution's blows on arrogance were continuous, but world arrogance, with its alliances and various methods, cannot claim that it was able to weaken its young, zealous, energetic, steadfast, and permanent opponent—the Islamic Revolution. It cannot claim this. This is clearly seen, and the world knows that this is not the case. The Islamic Revolution is becoming more powerful every day. However, world arrogance does not give in trying to confront the revolution and inflict blows to it. The opportunity to meet the revolution head on does not always arise for world arrogance. They always seek specific conditions in order to inflict a blow.

I feel that at this juncture after 10 years since the start of the revolution, on the eve of the revolution's 10th anniversary, world arrogance is once again trying to confront the Islamic Revolution and this phenomenon that has distressed the machinations of the arrogant powers and hegemony in the world. All these phenomena we are now seeing are signs of this muscle- flexing, including the unity and alliance of factions against the revolution; decisions to adopt harsh stands and inflict pressures; economic, political, and extremely harsh propaganda approaches—beyong all propaganda norms—as well as arming and equipping the aggressive enemy and those they had armed to destroy the revolution in other ways.

All these are signs that being too weak to affect the revolution and after seeing that the revolution has grown and taken root, world arrogance wants to gather itself once again and inflict a blow. We should understand this sensitive situation, correctly identify these pressures, and understand the meaning of the political positions against us. They are not accidental. It is very clear that a multifaced and calculated plan, on which unfortunately the big arrogant powers—that otherwise have many differences—have united, is being pursued in the form of economic restrictions, political and propaganda pressures, and the equipping of the aggressive military enemy. This is the situation.

At such a time our new legislative session is convening; this is an extremely sensitive time. The Majlis should carry out its activities and plans bearing in mind this sensitivity. Combined with what I will state later, the significance of the Majlis' impact on the system of the Islamic Republic makes this role more important and outstanding and makes increasingly heavy the duties of the deputies of the third session.

The other point is on the role of the Majlis in the system. Much has been said about this, the most important remarks coming from our dear imam, both in today's very wise message and in his earlier, detailed messages to this Majlis, and in various other messages. The place of the Majlis is justly at the head of the system of the Islamic Republic, in terms of both the weight it carries and the impact it can have on the system.

I would like to repeat some of the conclusions drawn from what has been said, what the imam has said, and what we have repeatedly stated. Bear in mind that the Majlis is the place where slogans and ideals are turned into programs and policies. It is not enough here to repeat slogans. Slogans must be turned into plans, programs, or laws; in other words, slogans must become realized.

The Majlis is the place where what is must be transformed into what should be. The Majlis should not consider any existing social reality a bitter and unalterable truth. The government, the administrative system, and the judicial system may be asked: Why is reality like this? They can answer: Well, we cannot change it. However, the Majlis is where the word cannot should not exist. The Majlis should turn what exists into what should exist by enacting laws.

As for deliberations, the Majlis is where the focus of ideas are centered so that they can become effective and able to destroy and eliminate obstacles. In other words, various ideas and views here will become effective when they are like rays focused on one point. However, if they are not centered, they will be the usual ideas and have no effect. It is their concentrated focus and correct formation that can grant life to the Majlis and give it impact.

Some of the tasks of the Majlis are extraordinary and irreplaceable. One is legislation. As far as legislation is concerned, we should consider our present situation. Of course, today's situation differs from that of last year, 5 years ago, or 10 years ago. However, the present situation should be improved. If our present situation is better as compared with 10 years ago as far as the general formation of society is concerned, this does not mean we have reached the optimal situation. We have an existing situation and a desired or ideal situation. The plan that takes us from one to the other, the primary, expert, and precise plan, is the Constitution.

The Constitution was compiled in this blessed place for Islam and for the revolution by outstanding individuals of the Islamic Republic, many of whom have passed away. Everyone acknowledges that this is one of the world's most progressive constitutions. The Constitution is the general plan that can, in this gathering, link the existing situation to the desired one. The laws you approve here are part of this long path. Each of your laws is a tunnel you build, an obstacle you remove, a bridge you construct over a valley, and a path you open in a remote area. The structure of your laws forms the structure of the Constitution. Each law approved here should truly form part of this general plan.

Once this path is opened, it will be the duty of the officials and the government to help the people move along this paved path toward the desired situation. The officials cannot be expected to travel a road that is unpaved and lacks tunnels and paths. This should be handled here. Of course, if this is done and there is no car or driver to take this path, then nothing will be achieved. However, when a government is prepared to work, to strive, it can only do so if the path has been paved; and it is you who will pave this road.

The Majlis should not take a shovel and start working on the curbs of this road; this is not the Majlis' role. The Majlis should always study the primary, most effective, and most significant issues and bear in mind the precise lines of the ideals which have been clearly stated in the Constitution. This is one of the roles of the Majlis' legislation.

At this point I would like to refer to the activities of the Majlis, to note the basic issues that exist, apart from the war, which is also of course related to the Majlis to a great extent. There are problems in our society and ideals established which leave much to be desired. There are some problems which, as children of the revolution, as soldiers of the revolution, and as people who wish for the victory of the revolution, we cannot claim have been solved. One problem is poverty and wealth and the related issue of social justice. If we think beyond slogans, titles, and claims, this problem can be resolved in the Islamic Republic.

The hearts that mourned the difficult life of the poor have not yet been satisifed. Of course, we have made great progress, and moves to achieve favorable conditions have been good. Yet there is still a long way to go. In the past society was filled with discrimination, and the poor and deprived had no hope to achieve anything. However, while this is not the case today, we are far from achieving our objectives.

Another problem is illiteracy; this should be eliminated. If not, it will be one of our society's disgraces. Then there is the administrative system and its corruption, as noted in today's message from the imam, may his shadow be extended. This is an issue he has referred to repeatedly in the past.

Other problems are corruption and impurity in society in general and security, in all its aspects for the people, which is one of the greatest problems. At any rate, these are various problems that exist.

The Majlis has two other duties which, when added to its legislative duty, make us realize the heavy burden it carries. One of these duties is the appointment of executors, and the other is supervising the activities of these officials.

Therefore, you have the greatest role to play in the appointment of the executors; you have the tools necessary to supervise these officials; and you provide the only machinery that can pave the way for these officials. I think that in view of all this, the Majlis is the most responsible of the Islamic Republic's organs. In other words, the organ that cannot in any way shirk the burden of responsibilities is the Majlis, with all its sensitive, important, and determining duties.

I would like to make two recommendations and conclude my remarks, because the session has been a long one and it is hot here. One recommendation concerns procedural problems. I spent some of my postrevolutionary life in the Majlis. After that I was appointed to an executive position and was in almost constant contact

with the Majlis, dealing with its laws and hearing its debates, as all the people do. We are naturally aware of the Majlis' problems, too. I would like to make some recommendations concerning Majlis procedures, particularly to the new deputies, among whom there are fortunately many young faces.

I would like at this point to sincerely thank the dear brothers who served as deputies during the second session—active, outstanding and effective people—who were not reelected, whether they are present here today or not. However, I would like to add that, fortunately, many young faces can be seen in the Majlis. There are people here who have carried out executive duties, who were in revolutionary institutions, and who were able to feel the impact of laws on the lower echelons. This is good and offers a unique opportunity.

Many of the 160 brothers who come to the Majlis now have worked in various institutions. They were in the reconstruction jihad, in the IRGC, and in the government. They know what impact the smallest incident in the higher echelon—in the Majlis or in the government—has on the lower echelons. This awareness will greatly benefit the Majlis.

I repeat my call to those brothers and to all the brothers in the Majlis to avoid minor issues as much as possible. Regarding the laws, cast your votes wisely and with understanding. As far as the Majlis committees are concerned, during the past session the imam's message particularly noted and advised that the experts in the committees should be used.

I remember that it was said at that time—I stated it in my speech and it was later noted by our dear brother, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani—that the imam's remarks should become regulations. My advice now is that all three of our dear imam's messages—the messages to the first, second, and third sessions—be printed as booklets which the gentlemen will always have in their pockets, like the Constitution and the Majlis regulations that are the tools of the deputies, which they should always carry with them. It is necessary to refer to these constantly.

The committees should make the best use of experts, and the gentlemen should consult with each other. There were deputies in the Majlis who did their homework, just as they did when they were theological students. In other words, they studied at home any bills or plans to be discussed. They worked on it for some time, considered its various aspects, and sometimes studied the history of the law. This is extremely necessary.

Deliberation is tantamount to crushing the idol of selfishness; true deliberation will indeed crush this idol. Deliberation is incompatible with scandal.

I had made a list of the imam's remarks and recommendations from his previous messages and his message we heard today. As there is not enough time, I will not go into detail, but a large part concerns ethics. I would like to state only that at a time and in conditions when our society needs unity and harmony, when any tension or commotion in society harms the revolution and society, sometimes we see a commotion behind this dais. The people do not expect this. I, like you, am a representative of the people. I am a clergyman who continues to be in contact with all the people as much as possible. The people truly do not expect us, the authorities, to initiate differences. The same applies to the Majlis.

We ask that if the brothers sometimes have differences or problems, they do not present them in such a way and in such a place as to create tension elsewhere. Of course, differences of opinion are very good. Is there anything wrong with making decisions or making it a regulation that when one person is speaking during the Majlis session no one has the right to be noisy or to object if he opposes it in order to avoid a commotion? You, the dear young and zealous brothers who have come here now, as well as the dear brothers who were in the Majlis in the past, can do this.

I would like to make another recommendation. Throughout our Islamic and religious propaganda—both before the revolution and now—we have stressed the unworldliness of the great men of religion. I want to ask, as a brother, that the brothers and sisters, everyone present here, bear this in mind in the Majlis—both I, as an official, and you the brothers in the Majlis. In other words, we should not immerse ourselves in material things and well-being. Of course, there is no doubt that the dear deputies of the Majlis, with the outstanding reputation they enjoy in the people's hearts, know this, and, God willing, they will become an example for the people. But, teach thy message: for teaching benefits the believers. [Koranic verse]

God willing, this advice will be beneficial. I should point out that if the smallest action by the officials and those who have been elected by the people conforms with what has been promised and the slogans uttered, it will have a very favorable effect on the people.

I end my remarks here by thanking the representatives and ambassadors of foreign countries for coming to our great festivity. We thank them and those dear brothers who helped during the elections, the executive officials, supervisors, and programmers. May God reward all of them and make their efforts acceptable. We pray that God will make this session of the Majlis one of the most blessed periods of this revolution.

Khamene'i Delivers Friday Prayers Sermon

LD2705164088 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1230 GMT 27 May 88

[Friday prayers sermon delivered by President 'Ali Khamene'i at Tehran University on 27 May—recorded]

[Excerpts] First, I want to commemorate the great capture of Khorramshahr and the liberation of the territories occupied by the aggressor Iraqi forces, which was

brought about by the bravery, determination, and unprecedented epic of you, the people. I hope that the same enthusiasm and eagerness, the same strength and steadfastness, the same dignity will provide occasions for numerous celebrations by the martyr-nurturing ummah in all the stages of the imposed war until the moment of a decisive and final victory.

Of course, we have not forgotten that global arrogance—on the day that the forces of Islam succeeded in liberating thousands of kilometers of the Islamic homeland that had been under the usurping boot of the Ba'thist aggressor for many months, for a little over a year—all the world's mass media, and all propaganda agents tried, at first, to deny that great movement and to keep it hidden, to minimize its importance. This has persisted throughout the nearly 9-year, 8-year course of the war. That is, at any given moment, when our fighters have succeeded in inflicting a decisive blow and when the propaganda machinery of arrogance realizes and admits there is no other choice, this machinery has tried to minimize the matter. And the opposite is also true: If the enemy achieved any success, this propaganda machinery tried to magnify it, to raise a hue and cry, to speculate and hypothesize on the basis of such successes.

There are two aspects to war. You will not see in any war in the world that when a war has lasted for a long time, one side is always winning and another always losing. If one side is always winning and the other alwqys losing, the war will not last, it will be over. The reason for some wars to last a long time is precisely this: The forces of the two sides fight with all their strength. Each devotes part of the time to its own victory and overcomes its rival. At some point, the rival achieves victory. This confrontation, this lengthy battle and trial of strength results in a prolonged war.

Well, in the course of these 8 years, our aggressor enemy at certain junctures has achieved some victories too. It was victorious at the beginning of the war. In some instances, the enemy was victorious in the middle of the war. Recently, it has had one or two victories and successes. These successes of the enemy are not beyond our expectation. This is war; war involves inflicting and receiving blows; it involves victory and retreat. Such events are not at all beyond expectation in a war. These things will not determine the final result.

The final result will be determined by the steadfastness and resistance of a nation, its firm stance, its selflessness, its faith in God, its unity and coordination, and its ability to inflict decisive and continuous blows. That is what history will record, that is the destiny of war, and that is what determines which nation, which side is more deserving of God's grace and of setting the crown of nobility and honor upon its head. On the basis of experience—the experience of history, the experience of wars in the early days of Islam, and our own experience in the past few years—we have no doubt that the nation having the last word and delivering the last blow is this same heroic and martyr-nurturing nation, a nation that in during these last years has not for a single moment felt a sense of weakness in confronting the big powers. [crowd chants]

Now if the enemy, which is part of the network of global arrogance, achieves a victory, great or small, then the world becomes enveloped in a hue and cry. Their own [words indistinct] ones voice it over and over again, expand on it, and even (?write about) it, giving each other confidence that a certain event has taken place, that certain developments have occurred, and that certain future events are expected. This victory gives the enemy a temporary respite even though nothing of the sort has occurred. Global arrogance must not be happy and self-congratulatory about its subservient, lacky regime's achieving one or two minor victories. Global arrogance must realize that the fate of the war is the same as that announced by this resisting and selfless nation from the beginning and the same as that voiced [words indistinct], by the awesome, unwavering, decisive, and spiritual [words indistinct] leader. [cheers]

I will briefly explain the approach by global arrogance to the revolution and to the war, particularly at this crucial juncture, so that it may become clear to all those who are trying to comprehend the real movement of the nation and to those who carefully observe with their magnifying glasses every single move we make. What is the real issue in Iran, what movement is followed, and what will our fate be?

Two very important factors are shared by all revolutions: One is the leader; the other the people. The tangible human factors involve these two factors. If a revolution or a nation lacks leadership, then change will not be noticed; and even if a change is initiated, it will be vague, unclear, without any direction. Moreover, if leaders who intend to initiate movements appear in a society without the people's backing, they will get nowhere. If the leadership and the people stand united, they will advance, as long as there is power between the leadership and the people.

This is true of all revolutions. The global powers which have come up against the great revolutions in the world during the past 100, 120, or 130 years have gained experience. I am referring to the colonialists and the global arrogant powers. The colonial powers have been pitted against revolutions for the past 120 or 130 years. The old British colonialism, the French policies in many African countries, or the Italian policies in [words indistinct] or that of Spain in Africa, Latin America, and other places. In short, the European colonial powers, that brought other countries to their knees and exploited them over the past 120 years, have gained some experience in this period and have now prepared themselves to deal with revolutions. They have isolated the two factors and have found ways of dealing with revolutions.

A clear, specific way to confront the leadership factor and public power exists: In brief, they buy off the leadership and then deceive the people. This is the general policy of the (?colonialists). You may wonder why the revolutionary leaders are prepared to make deals with their own enemies. The reason is that these leaders are not spiritual and divine leaders. It is because a human being without access to the [words indistinct] source of divine [words indistinct] is very easily spoiled. [passage omitted]

Our slogan "God is great" means that Gof is greater than any power in the world. [passage omitted] Therefore, a nation or a country where a revolution and its leadership do not rely on spiritual power is easily won over. It does not mean that they all commit treason; it may be treason or the love of an easy life, or love of convenience. Sometimes words alone are enough to scare many of the Third World leaders. They were subjected to pressure which made them see no other way but one of conciliation in order to preserve their own nation. In our times we have seen many who have changed their ways. Arrogance also has many tricks up its sleeves and talks to different people in different languages.

Of course, if the leaders collude with the enemy then they will also cooperate with the enemy in deceiving people. However, there are cases where the enemy deceives people and distracts them from reality and truth. The enemy has the means to do this. Today, the four large news agencies in the world who feed hundreds of radios, televisions, and newspapers belong to the oppressive powers, the Zionists, and important U.S. merchants. They are in the hands of the U.S. leadership.

We are not surprised but some people are when everything said in the international media, in their telexes, is against us. The world telexes have never printed one true, unbiased report in our favor unless it is something that they cannot deny and are forced to report. Several million people march in Tehran and world telexes report that a hundred thousand attended a march. We achieve victories in the war and they do not report it, or else deny it and say it was not important. They always report ten times the number of our losses. They enlarge problems that may stem from the war ten-fold, inject their own bias, and broadcast it around the world. Not once have they carried a true report.

Not once have world radios or televisions said anything or shown anything of all the bravery, sacrifice, power, and determination that exists within our society and that each member of our nation has come across within or outside himself. Occasionally a correspondent suddenly is motivated to get an interview and perhaps gives some information to the people of the world. [passage omitted] They have deceived nations with these means. These are two of the instruments of the international oppression. They have tried for the past 9 and 1/2 years since the victory of the revolution, and particularly during these 8 years of war, to use these instruments. However, the abilities of the leadership, its power, its nature, and the complete and infinite reliance by this imam of the ummah on God, and the fact that the only motive of this leader has always been working for God and carrying out his duty has always disappointed them. [crowd chants]

As far as the war is concerned, since the start of the imposed war, they have repeatedly tried to force our officials to reconsider their position. They have not been able to do so. They all know that as far as the war is concerned, on the basis of the Consititution, the control of the war is in the hands of the leader of the country, the imam. No one in this country but the imam has the right to make fundamental decisions about the war. There may be those to whom the imam delegates responsibility; they receive this responsibility only to the extent granted them by the imam. This is according to the Constitution.

In addition, regarding such an immense issue the main hope of the people rests in the imam's views, decisions, and orders. Without him, nothing would have been possible; no power to continue the resistance would have been possible. They know this and yet they tried and have committed misdeeds. However, they also continue on a second road; they have been on it and continue to be on it. They began to question the philsophy of the war, why we continue the war as Iraq has asked for a cease-fire—never mind the fact that they had taken our land—they were asking us to accept a cease-fire. Repeatedly they forced the heads of a number of countries to come here for negotiations with us asking us why we do not accept a cease-fire.

When did this happen? When the aggressor forces were deep within our soil. They were not prepared to accept our point of view: first a withdrawl, then a cease-fire. They were not prepared to accept this and continued to insist on their idea. Naturally, the officials of the country, those responsible for the war, were never deceived by this plot of the enemy. The issue was completely explained to the people and it became clear. People entered the scene with complete awareness and with strong determination.

After the first blow the enemy dealt on the Armed Forces, the people, the Armed Forces, the IRGC, the Army, and various other groups and strata joined together to usher in a great movement. It is a movement that we can see in a tangible way; we fan feel its effects.

Yet, during this period foreign broadcasting stations, the spokesmen for political circles, and those who statements are heard all over the world have continuously tried to poison public opinion inside our country—and, of course, against them have always been the great forces of the people, the will of the people, popular awareness from all strata. These have displayed their powers of survival against the very strong blows aimed at them. We have seen this fact all along.

You may notice these days how our Armed Forces are willing and, with a great sense of motivation, anxious to defeat the aggressor enemy. Your slogans—slogans you chant such as "War, war until victory," the slogan about counterattack, and the slogan calling for continuing this sacred struggle until the enemy has been totally brought to his knees and eliminated from the scene— are the same slogans which the self-sacrificing combatant brothers, the Armed Forces, the mobilization forces, and even those who are not from mobilization forces, also chant. These are the very same slogans.

The day before yesterday I was returning from the scene of the naval exercises. At Bandar-e 'Abbas a young pilot officer came to me. He wanted to tell me: Please, as God is your witness, do not let any comprise be imposed. He said: We are ready to the last man, until our last breath to go anywhere, to do anything that the responsibile authorities tell us to do. But you must not make any kind of appeasement with the enemy. [crowd chants]

I told this young, faithful, Hezbollahi officer: O brother, who is going to compromise? Who is the one you do not want us to compromise with? No one in the country's administration either wants to compromise or accepts compromise from someone else. The great movement by the people toward final objectives and final victory has been charted by the imam of the ummah. The people are willingly and diligently following the path they have chosen.

I felt that the young pilot's approach was influenced partly by the enemy's propaganda. One of the enemy's activities is to insinuate in its propaganda, in its its radio broadcasts, in its news agencies, on a wide political arena that the Iranian nation and the authorities of Iran are waivering in their will to fight. This is a political battle, a political movement. A political battle along with an economic battle is part of an all-out war. [passage omitted]

War on the political front, on the economic front, on the labor front in the country, on the social front and the necessary preparedness (?on the basis of) modern facilities, on the military front, all of these together will defeat the enemy. The enemy is trying to weaken the political front, the social front; to create anxieties among the people, to create disturbances and problems in people's mind. This is one of the enemy's activities.

These foreign radios, which broadcast false news and false analyses and misleading and worrisome words underwritten by great sums of money, are not without motivation. It is part of this same war. Sometimes war means the launching of missiles, sometimes attacks on cities, sometimes attacks on our forces, on trenches; and sometimes there is the war of radios, of rumor-mongering, and of sowing doubts.

Unfortunately, in all of these tactics as heard by isolated individuals and individuals who are unaware, people who have never understood these enemies well—have never understood them and still do not understand them—people who have not understood the leader, people who have not understood the country's authorities, people who have not demonstrated nerves of steel or indestructible will, repeat the enemy's words that are broadcast by these radios. They write these words down and broadcast them, and believe they are doing something. They think this is an honorable activity. No; this dishonors them. These are the same words that are being carried today by Zionist news agencies. Some people collect these same words, write them down, attribute them to this person or that, and distribute thousands of copies among the people. Is this skill? Is this something that will bring respect for a person?

People know what the sources of these words are. Foreign radios, international institutions, and foreign circles try to exaggerate the losses of the war. First, if a war is based on justice and if struggle is based on right, any loss in that just war and righteous struggle is a kind of profit and an advantage. If war is waged to gain rights, then it will involve self-sacrifice. Is it possible for a nation to achieve its aims without making a sacrifice, without giving any martyrs, without giving selfless people, without sacrificing anyone? Have other nations done this? The nations of our own time, these nations which benefit from some independence or relative independence, did they get where they are without paying a price?

Look at the countries who were occupied by invading forces during World War I or World War II. Look at the price they had to pay in order to free themselves. If they had not made that self-sacrifice, if their youth, on the basis of their sincere belief in the need for self-sacrifice and struggle, had not gone to the battlefronts and had not stained the earth with their own blood, it would not be possible for these nations to have independence and greatness today. All nations with integrity, greatness, and independence in the world today have obtained them at the cost of blood.

Yes, it is possible not to make self-sacrifices; it is possible not to accept danger; it is possible not to go to the battlefields; it is possible not to sacrifice lives. However, freedom, independence, and honor would have no meaning. In that case, servitude in the face of the enemy must be accepted. Slavery in the face of the enemy must be accepted. (?Domination) by the enemy over life, wealth, and honor must be accepted. [crowd chants "We will fight and die, we will not accept compromise"] Our nation has tried self-sacrifice. Other nations have also tried it and they have tasted the sweet results of self-sacrifice on the road to honor, respect, freedom, and independence.

If Vietnam had not made sacrifices it would not be independent today. If the Vietnamese had not fought, the United States would still dominate Vietnam today.

However, the Vietnamese sacrificed millions of people for their independence. Algeria lived under French domination for years and was losing everything—religion, honor, respect, culture, morality—everything. It endured 1 million killed and 1 million wounded of the 14 of 15 million Algerian people until it attained freedom and independence.

Our nation, too, has made sacrifices for freedom and independence and it will continue to make sacrifices. Of course, the figures that are given about our losses are exaggerated. God willing, one day when it is appropriate and suitable, we will reveal the figures clearly and precisely and you will then see that the figures given for our losses are exaggerated. Of course there are losses. There is no doubt that there are casualties. Without self-sacrifice, nothing is possible; no change is possible. A nation will not remain alive without sacrifice.

However, the enemy exaggerates these losses. They exaggerate the hardships, the shortages, and the weaknesses so that they can deceive the nation. This is the same policy to which I referred earlier — the policy of deceiving people. This is a continuation of the policy of arrogance. Now that they have no hope of dealing with the leaders, they try to deceive and mislead the people [words indistinct]. Of course, on this score, too, they have been defeated before. Our nation has vigilantly maintained its strong and sturdy position. I decisively state that today there is no nation in the world so brave and self-sacrificing as our nation. No other nation has walked such a difficult path as our nation or shown such steadfastness and strength.

The arrogant global powers are united against this nation and have increased pressure on it, but what will ultimately determine the destiny of this region and of international relations in this region is your steadfastness, resistance, and decisiveness. I declare that the great movement of our people in confronting the aggressor enemy is continuing. Our Armed Forces are prepared. Our mobilized youths are prepared. Our authorities are prepared. Our leadership is standing firm and decisive and will continue this movement until the complete suppression of this aggressor. We are certain that victory is ours. [crowd chants] [passage omitted]

Velayati, Besharati Participate in Roundtable

NC2605193288 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1615 GMT 26 May 88

["Weekly Political Roundtable" discussion with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati and 'Ali Mohammad Besharati, first deputy foreign minister, moderated by Afshar, correspondent of the Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran; date, place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Afshar] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Salutations to you dear viewers, dear compatriot brothers and sisters. I hope for success for each one of you dear compatriots. You viewers, who foil each one of the enemies' plots with your resistance, steadfastness, and firmness, are a source of pride and dignity for dear Islam. We are here with another program in the "Weekly Political Roundtable" series.

I ask permission to introduce the participants: our brother, Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati, our country's foreign minister, and our other brother, 'Ali Mohammad Besharati, deputy foreign minister. While thanking these brothers for participating in this roundtable, and welcoming them, I pose my first question to you, Dr Velayati. As you are aware, we have witnessed numerous offensives and counteroffensives on the fronts from both sides over the past few days. It is being reported that the reactionary countries of the region have increased their aid to Iraq. I am interested in your assessment of these developments.

[Velayati] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. My greetings to the esteemed viewers of the Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran. I wish to state that, as you mentioned, offensives and counteroffensives have taken place between our forces and the Iraqi forces over the past few days. Our forces achieved remarkable victories at one of the heights in northern Iraq. The Iraqis launched offensives in Hajj 'Umran, Sumar, and Shalamcheh. They were defeated in Sumar and Hajj 'Umran, but in Shalamcheh, where the pressure was greater, our forces retreated a little. Of course, there have been similar developments during the prolonged war imposed by Iraq against Iran. However, what is undisputed and admitted by friend and foe alike, is that the trend of the war—militarily as well as politically and internationally—has benefited the Islamic Republic up to now.

As you pointed out, and what I wish to stress, is that following the Iraqi Armed Forces' consecutive defeats, that country's regional and international protagonists rallied to its support. This is amply borne out by the statements of the officials of these countries when they repeatedly declared that they view the downfall of a regime that protects their interests in the region as an intolerable development for them. They thus assisted that regime in various ways, and continue to do so. Some countries such as Egypt and the Hijaz regime affirmed such assistance. The Americans also overtly stated that they would never permit that regime to be defeated.

To salvage the Iraqi forces' morale, they needed to embark on certain actions. They did so and suffered defeat in some sectors as a result. However, they made some progress in other sectors. This is natural in a long drawn-out and extensive war being fought along a 400-km border with the participation of hundreds of thousands of forces. Undoubtedly, such actions are temporary expedients for the Iraqi regime. All are aware that after losing its popular base, and while confronting massive and spiraling economic problems and heavy debts, it is almost impossible for the Iraqi regime to continue such efforts entailing such heavy expenditures.

However, you can observe that simultaneous with these actions on the fronts, a political propaganda display was initiated in Baghdad and in a number of countries. Victims of political defeats were invited at various meetings to demand a peaceful resolution of the war. This indicates that Iraq's military activity is not based on its own initiative, but on those whose fundamental desire is that this war of attrition should be terminated as soon as possible, which is all to Iraq's interest.

[Afshar] Dr Velayati, a very important UN session on disarmament is to be convened next week. Its importance lies in the fact that some countries will participate at the summit level. Your Excellency is to lead a delegation to this session on behalf of the Islamic Republic. On the other hand, Mr Perez de Cuellar, the UN secretary general, said in Great Britain recently that the two warring countries should express their opinions on Resolution No 598. In view of this state of affairs—and my reason for this long-drawn introduction—Your Excellency, please inform our viewers what our approach to this is. Please also inform our viewers about the Islamic Republic of Iran's position on Resolution No 598.

Our view of Resolution No 598 and the way we approach it are established facts that we announced at its adoption, and our view has not changed since then. This means that in all political or international moves which take place regarding the war, the first step should be the declaration of the Iraqi regime as the aggressor. Otherwise, there is no way, no key to this war besides what we stated earlier and in which we believe. Until now, this has borne fruit in deciding the final fate of the war on the fronts at the hands of our fighters. However, various international political circles and countries, friends as well as those who are not our friends, have repeatedly told us that the objectives we pursue—naming the aggressor and bringing him to trial—are also possible through political means. As we wish to prove that we are logical people, we have agreed.

However, the regime which has shown aggression against us should be identified as the aggressor. Then the matter of impeachment should be taken up, and whatever retribution it deserves should be meted out. This did not affect the trend of our military activities or our fighters at the fronts, and it should not. This is our true belief: We should stand firm before the aggressor and speak to him in the only language he understands, the language of force.

[Afsar] Thank you very much. Mr Besharati, in view of the fact that Your Excellency has recently returned from Lebanon, and in view of the fact that the clashes between the Amal Movement and the Hizballah forces have been going on for about 20 days now, please give our viewers the latest reports on Lebanon. Also, in general, even though the two forces—Hizballah and the Amal Movement— have differences (?in nature), nevertheless their positions are close in many ways. Both are Shi'ites and are fighting against Zionism. There are other issues on which they also hold similar views. Please tell us why, despite the similarity of their positions, they have been engaged in a conflict for about 20 days now?

[Besharati] In the name of God, the almighty, the compassionate. I too would like to greet all the dear viewers. Please allow me to speak briefly about Lebanon before answering your question, which has many aspects. Despite its small size—its area is not more than 10,400 km—Lebanon's history is filled with vicissitudes and numerous incidents. Out of a total population of almost 3.5 million, more than two-thirds are Muslims. The Islamic Republic of Iran always feels a responsibility toward the problems of Islamic countries and sympathizes with the oppressions inflicted on Muslims. Therefore, we cannot ignore the problems of Lebanon. Lebanon is a country with a long border with Israel.

Consequently, it is a good arena for the struggle against Zionism as our revolution is an anti-Zionist revolution. As you pointed out, Lebanon is the base and the cherished land [khastgah] of the Shi'ites. The Jabal 'Amil is the cherished land of traditional and genuine Shi'ism and was once the realm of Abu Zar, the famous companion of the prophet of God. Yes, unfortunately, the incident that occurred was bitter for us too. The Islamic Republic has intervened each time an incident has occurred among Muslims in that country. Such incidents alter the anti-Zionist direction of the struggle and set the forces against each other. Delegations have been sent from the Islamic Republic several times to resolve differences among the Palestinians and between Amal and the Palestinians. This time the Islamic Republic sent numerous delegations to Lebanon in the same context, and we have scored many successes. I should say that in a country which has been involved in a civil war for about 13 years, where everyone is armed, conflict and bloodshed have unfortunately become an everyday occurrence.

The Islamic Republic's role in ending organized bloodshed has been extremely effective so far. We can see what might have happened but did not, thanks to the efforts of the delegations sent by the Islamic Republic. When the clashes broke out between Amal and Hizballah, Ayatollah Jannati went there at the head of a delegation. He spent a few days there, working hard to resolve the problems. Mr Sheykh ol-Eslam stayed there when Ayatollah Jannati returned. Mr Sheykh ol-Eslam also worked hard to resolve these issues. I should point out at this point that the cease-fire we declared was lasting. Of course, the Western mass media must portray the situation differently so that they can make our influence appear less effective. In short, Hizballah has risen from the movement of the Islamic Republic's Revolution in Lebanon and it is a hard-working, dedicated, fair, and revolutionary group.

Furthermore, Amal is also an organized Islamic Shi'ite party. Both of these forces have undertaken persistent efforts and struggles against Zionism. What is important

for us is to resolve their conflicts in any way possible and with all our resources, and to direct their activities toward the struggle against their main enemy, Zionism. To a great extent our efforts have been successful in this regard.

[Afshar] Mr Besharati, I accept everything you have said. The Islamic Republic's efforts have been successful in every way, as Your Excellency has stated. However, we see that during the last 20 days, despite all efforts, several cease-fires have been declared between Amal and Hizballah and each one has been broken; in other words, these cease-fires have not held. What, in your opinion, is the reason for this?

[Besharati] I think that some of these reports which have reached our country do not give an accurate picture of what is actually happening in Lebenon. The ceases-fire was, in fact, observed. While we were there, both Amal and Hizballah observed the cease-fire, and we thanked the parties to the conflict for this. However, I said that the conflict or, as they put it, sniper fire, is a normal occurrence there. We have seen many examples in past years of how small incidents have led to gunfire and bloodshed. The conflicts between Amal and Hizballah may also come under this general rule. Of course, at this point we cannot ignore the role played by some suspicious groups there which do not want these forces to direct their struggles against Israel. They are there too.

We saw mortars fired from the Chrisitian-inhabited eastern sector against Zahiyah. This was intended to show that this cease-fire declared by the Islamic Republic was not effective. In other words, they wanted to cast doubt on our role. The cease-fire was observed to a great extent. There were some exceptions, and perhaps some of the lower ranks are not very closely controlled by the higher officials of both groups. Responsibility for everything that has happend cannot therefore be placed on their shoulders. These things are not very important in terms of the general situation and problems in Lebanon.

[Afshar] Dr Velayati, on the one hand we see that Amal and the Hizballah are in conflict in Lebanon, that there are differences between them. On the other hand, we see that all the Christian right-wing factions—the various parties—have established unity on the eve of Lebanon's elections. What type of effect do you think this will have on Lebanon's elections—that is, the unity of those parties on the one hand, and the conflict between Amal and Hizballah on the other?

[Velayati] Of course, I doubt whether all of Lebanon's Christian groups have united. The various Christian sects in Lebanon differ in principle among themselves, and sometimes bloody clashes have taken place between them. The roots and major causes of those conflicts continue to exist.

[Afshar] Yes, it is exactly as you say. Yet despite their basic differences, for the present they have united.

[Velayati] Yes. Of course, unity of word among the Muslims of Lebanon is one of the principles we have always hoped will remain steadfast and lead to the salvation of the Muslims of Lebanon. However, the fact that conflicts have not broken out among the Christian groups on the eve of Lebanon's presidential elections is not a key to resolving all of Lebanon's problems. Presently, the very method of electing a president there is being questioned. While I accept what you have said in principle, regardless of whether or not we are on the eve of Lebanon's presidential elections, the conflict among the Islamic ummah is not at all favorable and beneficial. It is definitely harmful and will most assuredly lead to the weakening of the Islamic forces.

However, as to why the conflict exists, as Mr Besharati has pointed out, some of these conflicts are actually imposed on the Islamic groups. It is in the interests of certain groups for Muslims to be in conflict. Imagine overt and covert acts of regional and world powers seeking to spread discord among the Lebanese Muslims—Muslims who have shown they are struggling and respectable people—so that they will be unable to fight against their main enemy, Israel and its mentors. This is the case in Lebanon, and unfortunately in many such instances, their plots prove to be successful. In other words, they succeed in pitting Muslims against each other. The spirit ruling the Islamic Republic's efforts throughout these years in Lebanon has also been to preserve the unity and solidarity among the Muslims and to avoid anything that might distract them from their objectives and ideals. In other words, to see that all their efforts and their guns be aimed at their main enemy.

[Afshar] Dr Velayati, during your remarks you referred to the Lebanese elections and the methods involved. I remembered something which Shultz said some time ago, that changes should take place in Lebanon's Constitution, particularly in the part concerning the president. Can you please comment on this?

[Velayati] Of course. Mr Shultz and the U.S. Administration are used to intefering in and expressing views on every issue in the world, even though they have nothing to do with them. If we are seeking for a good and healthy rule to be established in Lebanon, then this must stem from what the people of Lebanon want, and should have nothing to do with others' opinions or desires. What the people of Lebanon, the majority of the Lebanese people, believe in should actually become our yardstick and criterion. We only desire the genuine and legitimate wants of the Lebanese people. Some day we hope to be able to witness a united and integral Lebanon, free from these problems, which can play its basic and main role in Islamic society and among Third World countries.

[Afshar] Mr Besharati, one of the Islamic Republic's efforts in the conflict between Amal and Lebanon [as heard] during this same period was to establish meetings between the leaders of Amal and Hizballah. It has been about 6 years since the leaders of these two groups have

met. Of course, their meeting would be seen as constructive, good, and successful. However, could not these meetings have been arranged before these conflicts or was it because the grounds were not favorable for holding these meetings? What were the problems that existed?

[Besharati] I would like to correct your statement that this was the first time Hizballah and Amal had gathered around a table and met, thanks to the efforts of the Islamic Republic. Previously, with the efforts of the Islamic Republic, these two Muslim, Shi'ite, combatant, and anti-Zionist groups had met, but not often. At any rate, the many policy differences exist among the Muslim, pious, and good groups and parties there. Such differences are natural and not at all something usual there—as we previously pointed out. We had closer relations with Hizballah because of the reasons outlined in answer to the previous question. However, this did not mean that our relations with Amal were weaker.

Many of the officials, leaders, and clergymen who have extremely close relations with them have come to the Islamic Republic on several occasions. We have excellent relations with them. We have assisted them. We have supported them and their efforts in granting ideological direction to the Hizballah. Within this context, of course, the more we sensed the dangerous extent of the distance being created between these two Muslim and combatant groups, the more we felt responsible to bring them closer together and to hold various and numerous meetings. In a relationship like this, as these two groups did not have a precedence for conflicts, our efforts were not perceptible in bringing them closer. Of course, now that the threat of their becoming further involved in a conflict may lead to their forgetting the major enemy and to the exacerbation of the crisis in this wounded and oppressed country, we have made more spectacular and perceptible efforts.

[Afshar] Mr Velayati, differing and sometimes contradictory assertions have been made regarding the Syrian troops wanting to enter southern Beirut. For several months this was mentioned quite a few times, but they have still not done so. The latest reports we have received sat that the Syrian forces will enter the southern suburb of Beirut tomorrow. What is the matter? Will the Syrian troops enter Beirut or not? If they do, what is the Islamic Republic's view of this action?

[Velayati] What is definite is that the Syian troops have consistently helped in Lebanon in the struggle against Zionism and imperialism. In the recent clashes between Hizballah and Amal, they have displayed immense restraint and great poise. A telephone conversation took place a while ago between our president and the Syrian president. They agreed that a four-party committee should be set up in our Beirut Embassy to hold talks on returning peace and tranquillity to the suburb. This committee began its work and has encountered numerous ups and downs, but it has nevertheless managed to guide the situation toward a mitigation of tension. The joint efforts of Iran, Syria, and the representatives of Amal and Hizballah were, we should say, relatively successful in this.

Of course, Lebanon is a land of conflict conducive to bloody clashes which cannot be quickly or easily terminated. You can compare these clashes with those between Amal and the Palestinians, the fighting in the camps, clashes in Tripoli in northern Lebanon, the Muslim-Phalangist clashes, and the Druze fighting with some other groups. All these clashes were protracted and entailed heavy losses. Therefore by comparison, what happened between Amal and Hizballah was nothing unexpected or unusual. In fact, it was less intense and of shorter duration. Now there are only sporadic clashes. Because of the overall efforts by all sides, they are moving toward peace, and we hope that no harm is being done to the general, joint, and principled aspirations of the Lebanese Muslims who are struggling against Zionism and its supporters.

On the bases of our information regarding the intentions of our Syrian friends, their objective is to strengthen unity and solidarity, as well as to boost the strength of the struggling forces.

[Afshar] Mr Velayati, on the sidelines of these clashes in Lebanon, Western media have tried to portray the matter as the surfacing of differences between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Syria. Could you please enlighten our viewers on this?

[Velayati] What the Western media have said is, in fact, their governments' desire—that ties between the progressive and combatant countries should be marred. Until now, Iran and Syria's restrained attitude and firm ties have prevented the fulfillment of these desires. They always make mountains out of mole hills and disseminate totally false rumors. After a long time, something has emerged which proves the firmness of Iranian-Syrian ties and also confirms the baselessness of their allegations. During the recent incidents, Iran and Syria have been in close contact. There were telephone conversations between the two presidents, and Mr Khamene'i conveyed his second message to Mr Hafiz al-Asad in a letter.

In the beginning, that is after Mr Jannati's visit to Lebanon following the fighting in the south, I was sent to Damascus. I held extremely useful talks there with Mr al-Asad and Mr Faruq al-Shar', the Syrian foreign minister. On Lebanon, the two countries hold a unified position: Both countries believe that the Muslim fighting Lebaneses forces should be trained to fight against the Zionists and their supporters. The position of the two countries is the same regarding war. In most of the issues of the Islamic world and the world of nonalignment, the viewpoint of the two countries are in harmony or very

close. Therefore, in light of these factors, present rumors and allegations are baseless, as they were in the past. Our ties with Syria are friendly and fraternal and, God willing, will remain so.

[Afshar] I thank you, Dr Velayati. Mr Besharati, it is being reported in some political circles that the Islamic Republic's attitude has changed toward the Amal Movement. What is your opinion on this issue? Has our position really changed?

[Besharati] In view of the Lebanese Muslims' struggles against Israel in the south—and, naturally, Amal's role has been dazzling and remarkable, and the Hizballahis also have launched a relentless and concerted struggle in this sector against the Zionists—the need for unity among the Muslim forces in Lebanon against Israel was seen more than ever before. The Islamic Republic has consistently revered and respected these struggles by the Muslims, and has strengthened them. Therefore, now that the struggles against Israel have become deeper, more extensive, and more organized, it is only natural that our ties with all the forces fighting against Israel should be deeper, stronger, firmer.

Hizballah has, in fact, struggled successfully throughout its short existence. Amal is an older movement, organized, and strong with a remarkable record of struggle. We support all these Muslim Lebanese groups. As I have said, they had many struggles over the past few days and weeks. Our visits and our contacts with both of these groups also increased. We feel that our ties with Amal are stronger, deeper. The real reason is that, as I said, we always have enjoyed cordial ties with Amal officials and Amal clerics, who always have had the support and affection of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Of course, both of these groups are aware of their own responsibilities toward the Islamic Republic. It is natural that the Islamic Republic should have a paternal interest in them, as well as close, strong, and firm ties.

[Afshar] Dr Velayati, my last question during this roundtable is addressed to you. In your remarks, you referred to the Islamic Republic's position as being in harmony with Syria on most issues, such as the issue of Lebanon and the war. As you said earlier, our Syrian brothers have, with regard to the Persian Gulf situation, repeatedly condemned the presence of the U.S. forces in the Persian Gulf. The U.S. forces entered the Persian Gulf with quite a large force, but its size was reduced after a while. This issue was interpreted as a setback for U.S. policy in the Persian Gulf. As a result it was expected that they would leave the region. But, later, we saw that they increased their forces in the Persian Gulf and even changed their position, saying: Not only will we escort the Kuwaiti tankers, but also those belonging to all countries requesting escort. Could Your Excellency explain to us the reason for the change in the U.S. position and disclose the United States' future plans?

[Velayati] It is not surprising that on various occasions you should find contradictions and contrasts between the words of the Americans and their actions. The Americans believe they have vital interests in the region. Unfortunately, the conduct of some of the regional governments has supported this illegal American claim. The Islamic Republic's position with regard to the Persian Gulf is quite clear, open. We have repeatedly announced, and I reiterate, that we believe the Persian Gulf is for the Persian Gulf countries; that is, the littoral countries of the Persian Gulf. This is the most principled and natural statement made on the rights of the countries in a region.

The Americans are confronting the recognized international and regional rights of some countries in the Persian Gulf area. Our main position is that the Americans have no right to be here—neither Americans nor non-Americans. This region is for the countries in this region. As the biggest country with the longest coastline bordering the Gulf, and in view of its historical and political past, Iran considers itself as having certain rights which have been recognized and confirmed, and we will not falter even for a moment in defending our rights.

The events of the past weeks and some months back have proved that we are serious in defending our rights, and even if a superpower and its international satellites and its (?allies) in the region cooperate to violate the Islamic Republic's rights, we will remain steadfast. However, this does not mean that we do not desire peace in the Persian Gulf. We have repeatedly announced that what is happening between us and Iraq only concerns us and the Iraqi regime, which has attacked us and forced us to retaliate. This war, this tension in the Persian Gulf should not be allowed to proliferate. The Persian Gulf should be safe for all or none.

Some countries like the United States embarked on overt belligerence, and the Americans guided Iraqi planes in their latest attacks against our vessels in Larak, even though they have officially denied this. We lodged an official protest with the Swiss Embassy, which protect American interests in Iran. They responded with denials, but their denials cannot change facts. The proof and documentary evidence that we have confirms that the Americans aided the Iraqi aggressor's airplanes.

[Afshar] At the end of this program, I wish to thank you, dear brothers, for your participation in the weekly political roundtable on Network Two, and we hope you will be successful and victorious. Dear viewers, with the hope that this roundtable program has proved useful for you, I wish each of you good night on behalf of our participants, Brothers Dr Velayati and Mr Besharati.

Beirut Embassy Statement on 'Hostilities'
LD2805102388 Tehran IRNA in English 0958 GMT 28 May 88

[Text] Beirut, May 28, IRNA—Iran's Embassy here issued a statement Friday on the implementation of the first stage of an initiative for cessation of hostilities

between Amal Movement and Hizbollah which was carried out Friday night with the entrance of Syrian forces to the fireline in southern district.

The embassy expressed pleasure with latest developments to end the recent clashes and hoped that the situation in Lebanon will return to normal and that Muslims will eventually pool their entire resources for campaign against Zionism.

The statement also called on all Muslim warring factions in recent clashes here to avoid any move which would disrupt the implementation of the achieved agreements and to discontinue bloodshed and fratricide.

It reiterated that Iran will endeavour to implement the principles of the agreements and will use all its means to this end.

Meanwhile, Sayyid Ibrahim al-Amin, a Lebanese Hizbollah official praised Iran and Syria for their efforts to prevent conflicts in the southern district.

Referring to a recent meeting of a Hizbollah delegation with President Hafiz al-Asad, he said the latter stressed Syria's overall support for Hizbollah and Islamic resistance and described it as the "only real Islamic power resisting against a spurious and colonialistic Islam".

On the implementation of cease-fire between Amal-Hizbollah, he said that an agreement has been achieved on all problems and disputes including the process of returning the situation to its condition before the clashes and that the four-party committee will be in charge of its implementation.

He regarded recent clashes as oppressive conspiracies and treachery of internal agents who simultaneously want to suppress Islamic ummah and its resistance forces.

On the supreme Shi'te assembly of Lebanon and its role in preserving rights of Lebanese Muslims, he said it is one of the institutions of the Phalangist regime and could not be regarded as a decision-making center for the Lebanese ummah. He added that the leadership of Islamic ummah could be guaranteed and secured only through velayat-e faqih (Islamic jurisprudence).

'Iraq and Peace' Conference Held in Tehran

LD2805213188 Tehran IRNA in English 1630 GMT 28 May 88

[Text] Tehran, May 28, IRNA—A one-day conference titled "Iraq and Peace" was held here with participation of members of the Central Council of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq (SAIRI) and representatives from Iraqi opposition parties, groups, Kurdish organisations, workers and students unions and Women's Assembly of Iraq. Speaking at the inaugural ceremony was Abu Belal Adib, member of the SAIRI's Central Council who said the Iraqi Muslim nation has chosen Islam and Koran as its path, adding that hollow peace-loving claims of the Iraqi regime have always been coupled with the breach of law and massacre of thousands of Iraqi Muslims especially ulema and mujahidin.

In reference to Halabjah chemical carnage (March 18) which claimed the lives of thousands of defenceless civilians, Adib said "The so-called peace voice heard from Baghdad is in fact the voice of the global arrogance."

The second speaker of the session was SAIRI chairman Hojjat ol-Eslam Muhammad Baqir Hakim who said peace with the Baghdad regime is impossible because for Iraq aggression means political strategy. "Saddam's crimes are not limited to the slaughter of mujahidin and ulema but have inflicted irreparable damage to the cultural and intellectual structure of the Iraqi people," he stressed.

Before the Ba'thist regime started its war against Iran, it had already massacred hundreds of Iraqi mujahidin, Hakim disclosed.

Elsewhere in his speech, Hakim referred to the so-called peace conference in Baghdad and said the global arrogance armed the Iraqi regime with huge amounts of weaponry, nonetheless, he added, it sponsored the Baghdad conference because of its fear over Iraq's defeat in the war.

Hakim stressing that no peace will be possible without constant presence of the Iraqi people, said even the forthcoming superpowers summit cannot save Saddam, because "it is the Iraqi people who should utter the last word, and real peace will be achieved only after Saddam's fall."

Spokesman of Iraq's Al-Da'wah Party Shaykh Asefi later told the conference that the participants will declare the Iraqi regime as the initiator of the war and that eradication of "the corrupt root" (the Ba'thist regime) is the only path towards regional peace and security.

Shaykh Mohsin Husayni, spokesman of Iraq's Islamic Amal organization also said in his speech that the so-called peace conference in Baghdad is "a new plot by the global arrogance" aimed at saving the Iraqi regime.

Referring to the sabotage of Iraqi agents in the neighbouring Muslim countries, he stressed that the Baghdad regime has been founded on the basis of terrorism and sabotage.

Besharati on Soviet Missiles

LD2805190388 Tehran IRNA in English 1830 GMT 28 May 88

[Text] Tehran, May 28, IRNA—Acting Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati said here Saturday that notwithstanding current developments in the war Iran persists on a final victory and on the downfall of the Iraqi regime.

Addressing the concluding session of the conference on Iraq and peace titled "Saddam's Downfall Shortcut to Peace", Besharati repeated Iran's pre-condition for a ceasefire which calls for Baghdad being singled out and punished as the aggressor party.

Besharati said Iraqi's thrust to Al-Faw and Shalamchech were made possible solely because of the big powers' collaboration with Baghdad.

He charged the big powers, and particularly the Soviets with supporting the Baghdad regime, and said that although the Soviets had promised that they would not supply Iraq with long-range missiles, they have already supplied at least 800 missiles to Baghdad.

The Iranian official commented that the Soviets supply of mass destruction weapons to Iraqi is Moscow's reaction to Iran's support for militant Muslims in Afghanistan.

Also speaking at the one-day conference were an official of the military unity of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq (SAIRI) Seyyed Sadreddin Qapanchi [name as received] and a Kurdish dissident Adham Barezani who repectively elaborated on anti-government struggles in Iraq and Baghdad's repeated use of chemical weapons against Iraqi Kurds.

Conference Issues Resolution

NC2905102888 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 29 May 88

[Text] The Central News Unit reports that the conference on "Iraq and Peace" ended its work yesterday afternoon after issuing a resolution. (Sayyid Sadreddin Qabanchah), the official in charge of the propaganda section of the military unit of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq [SAIRI], presented a report to the closing session of the conference on the organization of Iraqi mujahidin forces within military units organized by the SAIRI.

[Name indistinct], official in charge of SAIRI's military unit support forces, analyzed the current situation on the fronts and in Iraqi Kurdistan. He said that mujahidin Iraqi forces have established themselves in most of the liberated areas in Iraqi Kurdistan, as well as in the (?south), and they are ready to inflict blows on the Iraqi regime at the appropriate time.

Adham Barzani of Iraqi Kurdistan's Hizballah also spoke at this conference. He discussed how the Iraqi Ba'thist regime has, with its extensive and continuous use of chemical weapons in Iraqi Kurdistan, martyred and wounded many residents of this area's cities and villages, forcing them to leave their homes in search of safer places.

Deputy Foreign Minister Besharati was the next speaker at the conference. He once again referred to Iran's conditions for ending the war and accepting the Security Council's resolution. He said: While we have no guarantees from the Iraqi regime on nonaggression against Iran and everything points to the fact that Iraq is the aggressor, we once again note our rights and insist on our condition to end the war: Before any peace or cease-fire in the war between Iraq and Iran, the Zionist Iraqi regime should be recognized as an aggressive regime and punished.

Mr Besharati described the collaboration between the big powers as the main element leading to recent developments on the war fronts and to Iraq's thrusts in the Al-Faw and Shalamcheh regions.

In conclusion, the deputy foreign minister described the so-called peace conference in Baghdad as a psychological and propaganda move aimed at strengthening the Zionist Iraqi regime, (?being attended) by the politically bankrupt.

At the end of the conference an 11-point resolution was published. The resolution states that the struggle against the Zionist Iraqi regime will continue in every possible way. The resolution details the massacre of the Kurdish Muslims, disrespect shown toward religious authorities who are imprisoned and martyred, the extensive use of chemical weapons, and the imprisonment of thousands of struggling people as the result of crimes perpetrated by the Ba'thist Iraqi regime. The resolution stresses that the opposition Iraqi groups will continue their struggles until the downfall of Saddam's regime in Iraq. The opposition Iraqi groups that participated in the conference on peace and Saddam also state in their resolution that in any decision for ending the war they should be considered a concerned party.

Aqazadeh Predicts 'Hard Session' at OPEC Meeting

LD2905181988 Tehran IRNA in English 1655 GMT 29 May 88

[Text] Tehran, May 29, IRNA—The next OPEC session, scheduled for June 8, will definitely reach an agreement on cooperation between OPEC and non-OPEC oil producers if Saudi Arabia avoids political issues in the talks, Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh announced here today. In the meantime, Aqazadeh expressed hope that the Vienna meeting will reach agreement.

Speaking to reporters upon his return from a three-nation tour, he said Iran will try to prevent political pressures from disintegrating the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC). He wound up his visit to Oman, the UAE, and Indonesia and returned home Saturday.

On an Iraqi proposal to be allowed an equal quota as Iran, Aqazadeh said the Islamic Republic would never accept this. "If political stances are to be involved in this regard then Iran also has some words to say," he added.

Aqazadeh predicted a "hard session" for OPEC on 8 June. However, he noted that this should not disappoint the member states in their efforts to reach an agreement to boost the oil prices.

Commenting on his tour of Oman, the United Arab Emirates and Indonesia, Aqazadeh said these countries are in full understanding with Iran regarding cooperation of OPEC and non-OPEC producers aimed at defending $18 per barrel price for OPEC oil.

The oil minister said ranking officials of the countries he had visited had expressed readiness for a production cut. For instance, he said, Dubayy which has already reduced its production from 400,000 to 300,000 barrels per day, has said it is ready for further cuts.

In Indonesia, he said, Iran announced that it is ready to import goods from Jakarta in return for a daily export of 30,000 barrels of Iran's crude oil. "Indonesia is prepared to purchase up to daily 85,000 barrels of crude from Iran," Aqazadeh said.

Elsewhere in the interview, Aqazadeh said Iranian personnel are still trying to bring under control the fire in southern Reshadat and Resalat oil rigs, set on fire after the aggressive U.S. attack on April 18. "We have new things to disclose in a near future in this regard," he said without elaborating. He added that his ministry is planning to reconstruct the damaged installations.

On oil exploration in the Caspian Sea Aqazadeh said preliminary steps have been taken and exploration operations will start as soon as oil drilling equipment chartered from the Soviet Union reach Iran.

Naval Commander Comments on Maneuvers

LD2805150688 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 28 May 88

[Text] The proud "Zolfaqar-3" exercises, involving the most complicated and large-scale joint surface and submarine sea operations, successfully concluded this morning.

At the end of the 7-day "Zolfaqar-3" exercises, held in the Gulf of Oman and the Indian Ocean, the naval commander of the First Sea Zone of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Navy was interviewed by a Central News Unit correspondent from the Bandar-e 'Abbas news unit. He said the exercises were quite successful and declared his total satisfaction with the maneuvers carried out by those units coordinating the naval, air and land forces operations. He stated: Employing all our capabilities, the Islamic forces displayed their extensive military capabilities both in combat and specialization aspects.

The commander further stated: Relying on the support of the Muslim ummah, our naval forces in the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman are prepared to forcefully confront any aggressive power. Our nation should rest assured that our brave seamen will never allow any aggressive power, superpower or regional, harm the honor and strength of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

In the course of the 7-day "Zolfaqar-3" exercises, more than 90 vessels—destroyers, personnel carrier frigates [as heard], missile-launchers, and logistics vessels, as well as Navy commandos and frogmen, supported by well-coordinated operations and antisubmarine helicopters, sea-air vessels [as heard], fighter-interceptors and transport aircraft of the Air Force, as well as special units of the Ground Forces of the Islamic Republic—conducted successful amphibious operations. Using modern electronic systems and missiles, they confronted enemy attacks, escorted convoys, and bombed imaginary enemy targets. Tens of special day-and-night operations were carried out, employing innovative equipment supplied by the self-sufficiency jihad personnel of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Armed Forces.

Combat Operations in War With Iraq Continue

Communique No 3,215

LD2705170088 Tehran IRNA in English 1630 GMT 27 May 88

[Text] Tehran, May 27, IRNA—Iranian jets shot down an Iraqi warplane in a dogfight over the Persian Gulf at 10:27 hours (06:57 GMT) Friday, reported the 3215th Joint Staff communique here today.

It said Iranian fighters also carried out their routine missions over the southern waters in support of the naval units, which continued "Zolfaqar-3" maneuvers in the Gulf of Oman Thursday. Foreign vessels and warships were reconnoitered in the patrol operations.

In the battlefields Iranian combatants brought under the fire Iraqi defence lines, motorized columns and engineering activities throughout the war fronts. 10 light and heavy vehicles, several tanks and personnel carriers, a munition depot and a 152 mm howitzer of the enemy troops were reportedly destroyed, and a group of them were killed or wounded.

The Muslim forces silenced Iraqi tank fire in Panjwin, Kelaleh, Helaleh, Nahr 'Anbar, Hoseyniyeh and west of Jofeyr regions, subjecting enemy positions in Qal'at

Dizah, Mehran, Sumar, Naft-e Shah, Mandali and Nahr 'Anbar zones to their continuous shelling. Relocation activities of the Iraqi artillery units in Naft-e Shah region were also disrupted.

Several Iraqi patrols were checked and brought under fire in Mehran operational theater, who fled from the area sususstaining some casualties.

Heavy anti-aircraft fire of the Iranian combatants thwarted most of the enemy's air violations particularly in Sidan and Sar Dasht Thursday, forcing enemy aircraft to flee into the Iraqi airspace, said the communique.

Communique No 3,216

LD2805180788 Tehran IRNA in English 1640 GMT 28 May 88

[Text] Tehran, May 28, IRNA—Iranian Air Force jets carried out their routine patrol missions over the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman Friday, reconnoitering 38 foreign vessels, among them some boats, a launch and a warship, said a military communique here Saturday.

The 3216th Joint Staff communique said that Iranian naval units in addition to closely monitoring movement of two Iraqi vessles around the Khawr 'Abdallah waterway and carrying out patrol missions in the territorial and international waters Friday, prevented three Iraqi warplanes from approaching the southern Iranian waters.

Iran's Muslim combatants traded artillery and mortar fire with Iraqi troops throughout the battlefields yesterday, inflicting heavy losses in men and equipment on the enemy.

A number of Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and two enemy munitions dumps and several gun emplacements were destroyed in Helaleh, Panjwin, Kharratha and 'Eyn-e Khowsh Friday when hit by Iranian artillery fire.

Two Iraqi patrol units attempted to infiltrate Iranian positions in Qasr-e Shirin, western sector, Friday but were forced to flee while sustaining several casualties when shelled by Iranian artillery fire.

Iranian Gendarmerie forces in continuation of their battle with Iraqi troops in parts of the southern and western sectors killed or wounded a number of enemy soldiers and set ablaze five gun emplacements, a watch tower and a water tanker truck of theirs.

On Friday, heavy fire of Iran's Muslim forces checked Iraqi logistical activities in Alvatan, Hajj 'Umran, Naft-e Shah, Sumar, Helaleh and Nahr 'Anbar and enemy engineering operations in Mian Tang, inflicting heavy losses on the enemy.

In Nahr 'Anbar, a number of Iraqi vehicles attempting to land troops Friday were shelled by Iranian artillery fire Friday as a result of which they sustained heavy losses, concluded the communique.

Communique No 3,217

LD2905155988 Tehran IRNA in English 1550 GMT 29 May 88

[Text] Tehran, May 29, IRNA—Iranian Air Force jets effectively carried out their routine patrol missions over the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman to provide air cover for the Navy and reconnoiter foreign vessels Saturday despite receiving warnings from some foreign warships.

Announcing the above here Sunday, the 3217th Joint Staff communique said that Iran's naval units while defending Iranian islands and oil rigs against any enemy attacks yesterday decisively carried out patrol missions in the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman.

Muslim forces of Iran reconnoitered and heavily shelled Iraqi positions, troop concentration sites and supply routed throughout the battlefields Saturday, killing and wounding a number of enemy soldiers and destroying sevral gun emplacements of theirs.

Heavy fire of the Muslim combatants checked activities of Iraqi tanks in Panjwin, Qasr-e Shirin and Nahr 'Anbar and enemy logistical operations in Sharhani and Zobeydah yesterday, inflicting some casualties and losses on the enemy.

On Saturday, Iranian Gendarmerie forces halted Iraqi engineering operations in parts of the southern and western sectors, killing or wounding a number of enemy soldirs, concluded the communique.

Downing of Helicopter Denied

LD3005101188 Tehran IRNA in English 1006 GMT 30 May 88

[Text] Tehran, May 30, IRNA—Iran today flatly denied an Iraqi claim that its forces had shot down an Iranian helicopter in the northern battlefronts.

A commander of Havaniruz (Army Air Support) told IRNA that Iran's military helicopters had successfully carried out their daily missions this morning and returned to bases safely.

Iraq Resumes Shelling Marivan

LD3005101488 Tehran IRNA in English 1010 GMT 30 May 88

[Text] Sanandaj, Kordestan Prov., May 30, IRNA—Iraqi long-range artillery shelled the suburbs of the Kurdish town of Marivan in this province Sunday night. Reports on damage or possible casualties were not immediately known.

After a month-long lull, the enemy resumed the shelling of Marivan two nights ago.

Communique No 3,218

LD3005162788 Tehran IRNA in English 1609 GMT 30 May 88

[Text] Tehran, May 30, IRNA—Iranian jets carried out their daily patrol mission in support of routine naval operations in the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman Sunday, reconnoitering 39 foreign vessels.

Communique 3218 of the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces reporting the above here today, added that exchange of artillery, tank and mortar fire continued on the battlefields Sunday, raging more heavily in Kushk, Zayd, Sayyid Sadiq and Panjwin of the southern and northwestern fronts.

Iranian combatants in addition to destroying an Iraqi artillery position, several group bunkers, an observation post and a military vehicle and inflicting some casualties on enemy troops halted movement of enemy motorized columns in Anjirah and Dehloran regions.

Attempts by Iraqi patrols to infiltrate Iranian positions in Kani-Sheykh and Yebis operational theaters were thwarted by the Muslim combatants who forced enemy troops to flee from the region sustaining some casualties.

Iraqi tank fire on Sumar and Panjwin regions was silenced, while the enemy troops sustained some casualties and losses as Iranian Gendarmerie forces brought enemy positions under artillery fire in parts of the southern and western fronts Sunday, the communique concluded.

Pakistan

Ziaul Haq Dissolves National Assembly

BK2905153588 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 29 May 88

[Announcer-read report on the 29 May news conference held by President Mohammad Ziaul Haq on the dissolution of the National Assembly—portion recorded]

[Text] President General Mohammad Ziaul Haq has dissolved the National Assembly with immediate effect. The Cabinet also stands dissolved. Announcing this at a news conference at the Presidency in Rawalpindi this evening, the president said that he decided on this action based on the authority provided by Clause 2 of Article 58 of the Constitution. The president said that this step had become necessary due to various factors.

[Begin Ziaul Haq's recording in English] Whereas the objective and purpose for which the National Assembly was elected have not been fulfilled; and whereas the law and order in the country has broken down to an alarming extent resulting in tragic loss of innumerable valuable lives as well as loss to property; and whereas the life, property, honor, and security of the citizens of Pakistan had been rendered totally unsafe and the integrity and ideology of Pakistan had been seriously endangered; and whereas public morality has deteriorated to unprecedented level; and whereas, in my opinion, a situation has arisen in which the government of the federation cannot be carried on in accordance with the provision of the Constitution and an appeal to the electorate is necessary.

Now, therefore, I, General Mohammad Ziaul Haq, president of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, in exercise of the powers conferred on me by Clause 2-B of Article 58 of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan hereby dissolve the National Assembly with immediate effect and in consequence thereof the cabinet also stands dissolved forthwith. [end recording]

This step will also take us toward democracy. Whereas there is the necessity to strengthen political measures under democracy, it is also necessary to see where political measures will lead us. For this reason there is a provision in the Constitution that states that if at any time the prime minister deems it necessary, he can dissolve the National Assembly and hold elections, and if the prime minister does not take this step, then the president at his discretion can dissolve the National Assembly and call for new elections. After the dissolution of the National Assembly, new elections will be held in accordance with the Constitution.

God willing, I will address the nation on the details tomorrow in order to present all the factors which I have been reviewing for the past several months and about which I have made a separate statement in Parliament. If you consider this also as part of the democratic process, as sequences in films change, and in the same way elections play the role of (?a film) in politics.

I turned the face of this country toward Islamic values, but all the stages could have not been achieved because this is a evolutionary process. In the past 3 to 3 and 1/4 years I have made several appeals to and have addressed the National Assembly many times. I have made appeals about bringing the nation to Islam, but there have been some difficulties. My next moves will be to take urgent steps toward enforcing Islam; these moves are definite. Details will be announced tomorrow.

The second important step, meanwhile, will be to establish law and justice. I hope that the promise we made to the people about protecting honor and safety through the enforcement of the Islamic system and through law and justice—which is completely my responsibility—will definitely be fulfilled.

After these steps are taken, we will give the right to the people and the country to reelect their representatives under the Constitution at the proper time. I am confident that the next government will carry forward this process.

China is our close friend and invited us to visit, but under the current circumstances this visit has been postponed.

In reply to a question on the forthcoming elections, the president said they will be held as provided by the Constitution. In accordance with the Constitution, elections should be held within 90 days after the dissolution of the National Assembly. It is the responsibility of the chief election commissioner to fulfill the constitutional requirements by holding elections within 90 days.

In reply to a question the president said an announcement will be made tomorrow about the provincial assemblies.

Answering a question, he said that as of now the next elections will be held on a party basis. The president said that efforts will be directed toward the people's electing good candidates. He clarified that the Constitution of Pakistan is intact and the Senate is intact as well.

The president said an announcement will be made on the formation of a caretaker government. He said the head of the caretaker government can be chosen from the Senate or outside the Senate.

Regarding the national budget, he said the new date for its announcement will be made later.

The president will address the nation over radio and television tomorrow.

KYODO: Troops Deployed

OW3005062688 Tokyo KYODO in English 0557 GMT 30 May 88

[Text] Islamabad, May 30 KYODO—The Army was deployed at key installations and important buildings all over Pakistan on Sunday night after the dissolution of the National Assembly by President Ziaul Haq.

The dissolution of the parliament and disbanding of the cabinet were conditionally welcomed by opposition leaders including Benazir Bhutto of the Pakistan People Party (PPP).

The ouster of Mohammad Khan Junejo from the premiership of Pakistan within less than an hour of his return from week-long Asian tour did not evoke a sharp reaction even among the members of his own cabinet. A number of these cabinet ministers were expected to be retained in a caretaker government which Ziaul Haq said he would appoint.

Bhutto said she welcomed Ziaul Haq's decision to dissolve the National Assembly "provided elections are held within 90 days as provided in the constitution."

Ziaul Haq also dissolved the provincial assembly of Baluchistan on Monday and asked the chief ministers of the province to go to Islamabad on Monday morning.

According to speculation in Pakistani newspapers Monday, the report of a cabinet committee on the ammunition dump blast in Islamabad on April 10, which laid responsibility for the blast on the Army, was the main factor behind the dissolution of the cabinet.

The federal budget for 1988-89 was scheduled for presentation in the National Assembly on June 8 but will now be delayed due to the dissolution of the cabinet. Mahbubul Haq, who was planning minister under Junejo, was being tipped as the new finance minster.

Junejo was reported to be in contact with his spiritual leader Pir Pagahra, but reporters were unable to contact him or his staff. Newspaper reports Monday morning said he was to be flown to his hometown in Sind by a special flight and that offices of his closest aides in the prime minister's residence had been locked.

All the nation's major political parties, including the PPP, the Movement for Restoration of Democracy and Junejo's Pakistan Moslem League convened meetings of their senior officials to consider the situation.

Ziaul Haq a former Army general, took power in a bloodless military coup in July 1977. A referendum in December 1984 confirmed him in office for a further five years. The National Assembly and four provincial assemblies were elected in February 1985.

Troops, Police Guard Junejo

BK3005114588 Hong Kong AFP in English 1133 GMT 30 May 88

[By Sami Zubeiri]

[Text] Islamabad, May 30 (AFP)—Pakistani troops took up position outside the prime minister's office Monday following President Mohammed Ziaul Haq's decision Sunday to dissolve the National Assembly and sack the Cabinet, witnesses said.

General Ziaul Haq is expected to announce later Monday a caretaker government to run the country until fresh elections, which must be held within 90 days.

Observers said that some of the outgoing ministers in Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo's Cabinet might be retained, adding that Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, who resigned as foreign minister under Mr Junejo, might be re-appointed to the post.

About a dozen soldiers and plainclothes security men were guarding roads leading to the premier's official residence and his offices in the adjoining city of Rawalpindi Monday, witnesses said. The soldiers refused to answer journalists' questions about why they were there, saying they were under orders not to do so.

Brisk activity was seen in the president's nearby residence where cars and jeeps had ferried in several army generals late Sunday.

Several Army jeeps were parked outside telephone and telegraph and radio and television stations and other government ministries, witnesses said.

No incidents, however, have been reported around the country. A senior police official told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE that "the situation is completely normal."

Meanwhile, the Sind and Baluchistan governors dissolved the provincial assemblies and sacked their goverments, echoing Gen Ziaul Haq's announcement Sunday that they had "failed to realise the objectives for which they were elected."

The governor of Sind, whose province has witnessed communal clashes claiming some 500 lives in the past two years, said that "law and order had progressivley deteriorated" in the province.

Gen Ziaul Haq's decision to dismiss the government has puzzled politicians and observers alike.

Some observers said they were surprised by the president's action, but noted that he had warned Parliament last month about rising corruption and a deteriorating law and order situation.

Other observers noted reports of differences between Gen Ziaul Haq and Mr Junejo on several issues.

Gen Ziaul Haq, press reports have said, was opposed to Mr Junejo's plan to freeze defence spending in the June budget and subject it to audit.

The president, apparently referring to Pakistan's traditional rival India, told a meeting of retired and serving officers here last week: "I want to match sword with sword, tank with tank and destroyer with destroyer."

He said he could not freeze the defence budget because of continuing threats to the country and he called on the civilian government to extend moral and material support to the Army.

The April 10 blast at an army ammunition depot in Rawalpindi has also become an irritant, observers said. An enquiry was conducted by an army general and a Cabinet sub-committee is divided on its findings which have not yet been made public.

The outgoing Minister of State for Defence Rana Naim Mahmud, is also said to have demanded action against some officers in the Army Intelligence Department for using the depot which was in a heavily populated area. More than 100 people died in the blast.

Press reports said Mr Junejo had encouraged some cabinet members to attack close aides of Gen Ziaul Haq in an attempt to weaken the president, who also is chief of the Army Staff.

Other reports said Mr Junejo had also tried to take an independent line from the president on a settlement of the Afghan conflict.

Assemblies, Cabinets Dissolved

BK3005102088 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0900 GMT 30 May 88

[Text] Today, Punjab Governor Makhdum Mohammad Sajjad Hussain Qureshi issued an order under which the provincial assembly and the provincial cabinet have been dissolved with immediate effect. The governor has issued the order under Article 112-2B of the Constitution.

NWFP Governor Fida Mohammad Khan has also dissolved the provincial assembly and the provincial cabinet with immediate effect. An order to this effect was issued by the governor in Peshawar today under Article 112-2B of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

Thus, the provincial assemblies and the provincial cabinets in all four provinces have been dissolved.

Baluchistan Government Dissolved 29 May

BK3005135888 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 30 May 88

[Text] The acting governor of Baluchistan, Justice Abdul Qadeer Chaudhary, has dissolved the provincial assembly and the cabinet with immediate effect. An order to this effect was issued in Quetta late last night.

Punjab Caretaker Cabinet

BK3105062088 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0600 GMT 31 May 88

[Text] A 3-member caretaker cabinet for Punjab was sworn in at the Governor's House in Lahore this morning. It is headed by Nawaz Sharif as the chief minister.

The other two ministers who took oath of office are Chowdhury Abdul Ghafoor and Malik Khuda Bakhs Diwana. Punjab Governor Makhdum Mohammad Sajjad Hussain Qureshi administered the oaths. Senior military and civil officials, judges, and distinguished citizens attended the oath taking ceremony.

Ziaul Haq Addresses Nation

BK3105091488 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1520 GMT 30 May 88

[President Mohammad Ziaul Haq's Address to the nation—live]

[Text] My dear countrymen, peace be upon you. It is hoped that you must have heard or read my announcement of last evening. Today, my address concerns this announcement and its aim is to take you into my confidence and tell you why I took this constitutional step and what will be the future course of action.

In accordance with my announcement yesterday, the National Assembly and the Federal Cabinet have been dissolved and Mr Mohammad Khan Junejo has relinquished his official responsibilities. Similar measures have been taken in the provinces as a result of which the provincial assemblies and cabinets have ceased to exist.

All these measures have been taken in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution of Pakistan currently in force and viewed from the constitutional angle they are part of the democracy and political process in the country. There is no need to be surprised, alarmed, harassed, or worried because neither martial law has been imposed, nor a state of emergency declared or the constitution suspended or abrogated.

Life continues normally. There is no ban on political parties or political activities. The press is free as usual. Courts and administrations are discharging their duties normally and our countrymen, as in the past, are actively working for the country's progress and prosperity. The only difference is that the National Assembly and all four provincial assemblies, in addition to the federal and provincial cabinets, have been dissolved, and that is only for a limited period because the clause of the Constitution under which I have taken this step also requires that new assemblies are constituted by holding fresh elections within a prescribed period. God willing, this requirement will also be fulfilled.

Although my recent steps have been welcomed in most parts of the country, including political circles, there may be some questions in the minds of some as to why I resorted to these steps. To find an answer, you have to go back a few years with me. I would like to begin in 1977 instead of 1947—the time when I had a direct encounter with national affairs.

In my first speech, broadcast on 5 July 1977, I stressed two factors after reviewing the political and administrative situation of that time and explaining the objectives of martial law—Islam and democracy. Just to remind you, let me cite just two sentences of that speech. In one of those sentences, I stated that my sole purpose was to hold free and fair elections. In the second, I stated that Pakistan which was established in the name of Islam would remain established on Islam alone. And for this, an Islamic system is very important.

If you look at all my speeches, statements, and steps taken since the first broadcast you will find the establishment of an Islamic system and democracy have topped my list of priorities. You might have a different opinion on it and say that the process of Islamization has not been as complete and as fast as it should have been, and democracy has not been established in a as proper and rapid manner as it should have been. But you cannot deny the fact also that the work on Islamization carried out during the 8 years of martial law was not achieved during the previous 41 years of Pakistan's history.

Similarly, the steps taken by the past martial law government in Pakistan to restore democracy and the way it voluntarily held elections and transferred all rights to the elected government is unprecedented not only in Pakistan but the entire Third World as well.

But how did the country benefit from all the measures we took. Democracy was restored in the country, but in slightly weakened form due to negative politics. A democratic government formally came into being and remained in power for 3 and 1/4 years, but despite all the powers it enjoyed it remained ineffective.

Soon after assuming power, this government turned the National Assembly, which had been formed on a non-party basis, into a party-based house and all these yes-men and party-men started causing problems for the government and the prime minister had to do a lot of maneuvering to keep all these ladies and gentlemen with him.

Some were given either flats or permits [industrial or import licenses], others were offered financial or political bribes. Some were even allowed to practice nepotism so that the example of irregularities started from the high political level. How then could bribery and corruption be prevented at the lower level?

I myself, you and all of us are witness to the fact that funds were provided to the members of the assemblies from the national treasury for development work, but we also know how and where these funds were spent. Though bribery is not a new thing in society, the promotion it received in the last 3 1/4 years is unprecedented.

Now, every politician and corrupt government official openly started saying loudly to the people, with outstretched hands, that if you want to have this work done then pay some cash or else go your own way. All these financial transactions are no more secret now. Ask any of the affected persons about all this and you will only find tears and agony.

The country's economic situation, which should have developed substantially under the leadership of people's representatives, has become totally paralyzed. I do not

want to go into details at this time, but I would just like to say that the elected government ran everything on credit instead of depending on its own resources.

It took credit from domestic as well as foreign sources for development works and for meeting the current [budgetary] deficits. The situation came to this point despite the fact that during the past 2-3 years, God's grace has been with us, crops have been good; but the country entered into the economic crisis because of the wrong economic policies.

When we look at the administrative situation of the country, we find that the bloodshed that has taken place throughout the country, especially in Karachi, during past 3 years, has no precedence in the entire history of Pakistan. Democratic governments solve the woes of the people, but this democratic government has increased their suffering.

We have heard that democratic government mends broken hearts and promotes unity and solidarity in the country, but this democratic experiment has taken the country to such a level of linguistic, regional, ethnic, and sectarian strife that it has rendered the lives, property, and honor of every citizen unsafe.

There were special reasons for appointing the head of the democratic government from the Sind Province and good results were expected of his leadership. But, what happened? Sind became an amphitheater of separatist movements and Sindhi nationalism. Bribery continued to flourish, and the people —under siege by robbers, criminals, and kidnappers—have stayed awake entire nights, shivering in fear of being the victim of any unexpected calamity.

The greatest crime was that the enforcement of Islam was put aside. No new steps were taken and the measures taken before were also put into cold storage. The system of prayers was practically done away with. The systems of Islamic taxes—zakat and tithe—developed several shortcomings. The fully developed system of Islamic law courts was totally ignored. An Islamic law bill—the Ninth Amendment to the Constitution—which, by the grace of God, was passed by the Senate in one day, has gathered dust in the National Assembly. Every good work was brushed aside because of political purposes, political interests and priorities.

Ladies and gentlemen, today is not the first time I have complained. I have drawn the attention of the government to this fact several times during my meetings with the respected prime minister and during my extempore speeches in the parliament—but to no effect. Sometimes, my submissions were rejected, considered as ineffective utterings of a constitutional head of state, and sometimes they were termed as the address of the leader of the opposition party. And no action was taken on any of my requests.

You might recall that while addressing the special session of the Punjab Assembly during its golden jubilee ceremony on 1 February this year, I stated that we are victims of a basic ideological contradiction. On the one hand, we had been under the Western political system for nearly 100 years, and like most of the former colonies we either knowingly or unknowingly consider the system of government of our former masters as holy and superior. We consider it as a peak of our success to follow their system.

On the other hand, quite justifiably, we attach our spiritual, ideological, and cultural connections to Islam. At the conclusion of the ceremony, I called upon people to move toward a clean and pure Islamic democracy. It will not take you backward, it will push you forward because, Islam, instead of emphasizing a comprehensive political system, provides guiding principles which are not only practical today but tomorrow as well. My warning was presented in a distorted manner, terming it a political sermon.

Then recently, I expressed my views in a comparatively frank manner on the functioning of the government at the joint session of the parliament on 7 April. And with your permission I would like to cite two or three excerpts from it. I drew attention to the menace of bribery and said that people are very fed up with it. Every third person visiting me complains of bribery. And half of the complaints in my secretariat relate to bribery and the practice of asking for references to get things done. They say that the menace existed before, but prevails today as never before.

Now, not only have the rates of bribery increased but people take bribery [word indistinct] and openly. On law and order, I had said that today the Muslims in some parts of our country have gone to the extent of cutting the throats of fellow Muslims. We consider ourselves Pakistanis less and Muhajir [Indian immigrants] and locals more; we consider ourselves less as one nation than as Sindhis, Punjabis, Baluchs and Pathans.

With deep sorrow, I am informing you of this spreading poison and requesting that you refrain from this gradual suicide. Discover the remedy for this invisible venom and save this capable and renowned nation from disunity from within. This speech of mine was also given a wrong color. Thus, I have been raising my voice on national affairs for the past 3 and 1/4 years. I have been making requests and appeals, ringing the warning bells, making myself a burden on the people in power, and I have been shouting and screaming in the house of authority. But my voice was given no importance at all.

Now there were two options before me. One was to see everything as a silent spectator and take no steps. And the other was to take appropriate steps to save the situation from deteriorating further. If I was forced to deviate from the Constitution and and take steps during the worst situation, such as prevailed in 1977, then now I can do many things while abiding by the current Constitution. Article 58, Clause 2, Subclause A of the

Constitution says that if the head of the state feels that such a situation has arisen where the federal government cannot be run according to the conventional rules and it becomes necessary to seek the verdict of the voters, then he can use his discretionary powers and dissolve the National Assembly.

Therefore, reviewing the situation in the country, I felt the situation referred to in the clauses of the Constitution has been created in the country. Therefore, using this constitutional authority I dissolved the National Assembly and the federal cabinet yesterday.

My dear countrymen, before speaking about this interim or next phase, I would like to thank Mohammad Khan Junejo for assuming the responsibility of prime minister and chief executive at my request on a very important turn of history 3 and 1/4 years ago. And during this period, he tried his level best to fulfill those responsibilities. If he did not fully meet the nation's expectations, then definitely he had some difficulties. Personally, he is a gentleman and an amiable person. This morning, I had an extensive meeting with him. He is all right. And now, after relinquishing his official responsibilities, he should decide on his future. I thank Junejo, his former cabinet colleagues, and all the former National Assembly members, who cooperated with me for 3 and 1/4 years, and tried to fulfill their responsibilities according to their capabilities.

Ladies and gentlemen. This morning, I also met the chief election commissioner and asked him to take the appropriate steps to meet the requirements of the action I have taken under the Constitution. Until, the next elected assembly comes into being, I have decided to form a caretaker government in accordance with the constitutional requirement and, God willing, it will be announced in the next few days.

Until the next elections, the priorities of the government will be as follows: To revive the Islamization process and to take steps to accomplish this task; to make progress toward providing inexpensive and accessible justice for the people; to improve law and order and provide the people with a sense of security; to improve the economic condition of the country and take it out of its current state of near bankruptcy.

God willing, practical steps will taken soon in accordance with these priorities; and I will give special attention to the process of enforcement of the Islamic system, and, in this connection, I will soon meet with the members of the Islamic Ideology Council and the Senate, who show keen interest in this task.

My attachment to Islam and my yearning for Islamization do not require any explanation. Please pray to God for my success in it. I failed to do all these things until I got your cooperation. Without your cooperation, the government will not be successful in these objectives. Therefore, my expectation and appeal to all ladies and gentlemen, whether they are connected with agriculture or industry, politics or journalism, whether they are rich or poor, from urban areas or rural areas, is to extend their cooperation to me as in the past.

Ladies and gentlemen, although I am amenable to leniency, amiability, and sympathy, I also feel that on certain occasions things cannot be accomplished in a lenient way. That means, as long as the guilty have not been given proper punishment, and a hooligan has not been taught a lesson for his mischief, a murderer has not been hanged on the gallows, and antisocial elements are not (?punished), society will not improve.

I have shown ample leniency in the past and ignored many things, which have been misunderstood many times. But, now, in this new era, there will be sternness where it is needed, culprits will be dealt with according to their crimes, and there will not be any lapse in punishing the guilty according to the Constitution and law. I fully expect all provincial governments to pay special attention to provision of justice when the (?speedy) trial courts and Kazi [religious] courts are established so that law and order will brought under control as early as possible and people are protected.

My dear countrymen, even though I have limited my speech only to the domestic situation, I would like to mention briefly that our current foreign policy has been quite successful, thanks to God, and there is no need to change it. As usual, we consider and will continue to consider our relations with the United States, the People's Republic of China, and the Islamic countries as the cornerstone of our foreign relations. At the same time, we will give special attention to improving relations with the Soviet Union and normalizing bilateral ties with India. Our policy on the Afghanistan problem is very clear. God willing, we will continue to follow this in future.

Finally, I wish to state one important thing. That is, in my view, the failure of the past democratic government is not the failure of the democratic system. It may be the failure of an individual or few persons but not the failure of a system. However, the proof of the success of a system is that it resolves an entangled situation while being a political, democratic, and constitutional institution.

I assure my countrymen that our objective is the same—the establishment of an Islamic and democratic system. Our goal is the establishment of elected institutions and an elected government. Islamization is our mission. Our path is elections. The source of our strength is the same, that is, God's grace and the full support of the people.

Whatever happened in the past is not a rock blocking the way, it is only a small crevasse. God willing, we will be able to cross it in a moment. Only God's grace is needed. Dear countrymen,ladies and gentlemen, your cooperation is needed. Despite this temporary mist, I see a bright, beautiful, and glowing future for Pakistan beyond the crevasse, a future enlightened by the dual lanterns of Islam and democracy, God willing [words indistinct].

Thank you. Long live Pakistan.